

Office of the Kane County State's Attorney



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RURAL KANE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DRUG CHARGE, GETS 19 YEARS FEDERAL HEROIN-RELATED CHARGES STILL PENDING

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Five years after he was charged for possessing a large amount of cocaine at his residence near Kaneland High School, a rural Maple Park man has pleaded guilty and is headed to prison.

Fernando Pilar-Lopez, 42 (d.o.b. 11-12-1973), of the 2N block of Meredith Road, Maple Park, on Thursday, Aug. 20, 2015, agreed to a sentence of 19 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections in exchange for a guilty plea to unlawful possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver, a Class X felony.

Circuit Judge James C. Hallock accepted the plea.

Prosecutors presented evidence that at about 2 a.m. Aug. 26, 2010, authorities served a search warrant at Pilar-Lopez's rural Maple Park residence. A search of the property revealed approximately 2,800 grams of cocaine with a street value of approximately \$280,000. Further, authorities seized more than \$1 million in cash, transaction ledgers, a money counter, documents that prove the Pilar-Lopez's residency, banking information and money transfer slips that Pilar-Lopez admitted were related to the sale of illicit narcotics.

According to Illinois law, Pilar-Lopez is eligible for day-for-day credit. He receives credit for at least 1,821 days served in the Kane County jail, where he has been held since his arrest in lieu of \$15 million bail.

Pilar-Lopez still faces charges relative to a federal indictment for heroin that was being shipped to him from Arizona.

"Mr. Pilar-Lopez was arrested and prosecuted because of a cooperative effort of the Kane County State's Attorney's Office, the Kane County Sheriff's Office and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. Thanks to them for their work to remove this poison from our streets. This conviction puts a notable dent in Kane County's illicit drug trade," Kane County State's Attorney Joe McMahon said.

The case was prosecuted by Kane County Assistant State's Attorney Kelly M. Orland.