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**NEWS RELEASE**  
**MARCH 15, 2019**

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**NEW BEDFORD MAN SENTENCED TO STATE PRISON FOR TRAFFICKING HEROIN**

**PLYMOUTH** – A New Bedford man has been sentenced to serve eight years in State Prison after pleading guilty to trafficking Heroin, Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz announced today.

Arnaldo Feliciano (DOB: 8/8/81) of New Bedford plead guilty today to Trafficking Heroin. Plymouth Superior Court Judge Cornelius Moriarty sentenced Feliciano to serve eight years to eight years and one day in State Prison.

On November 30, 2015, Plymouth Police were conducting a traffic stop of a red minivan with a broken tail light and an expired inspection sticker. The vehicle was driven by a female and contained three male passengers. Police conducted a search of the vehicle and occupants.

Backseat passenger Jose Rivera-Chevere (DOB: 01/06/87) of New Bedford was found with two hockey-puck sized packages, later determined to contain heroin, in his socks. Police also found two cell phones on Rivera-Chevere.

Police searched a second backseat passenger, Arnaldo Feliciano, and found a similarly sized package of suspected narcotics.

Christian Feliciano (DOB: 10/22/83) of New Bedford, a front seat passenger, was found by police to be carrying \$4,480 in cash and a box cutter.

A search of the vehicle yielded three additional cell phones and a tablet. A suspected drug ledger containing written records of suspected narcotics transactions was also located inside the vehicle. Plymouth Police recovered approximately 300 grams of heroin from the occupants inside the van.

Co-Defendants Christian Feliciano and Jose Rivera-Chevere entered guilty pleas at an earlier hearing and received the same eight years to eight years and one day State Prison sentence by Judge Moriarty.

Assistant District Attorney Brian Fahy prosecuted the case, which was investigated by Plymouth Police Department.