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County of Warren

PRESS RELEASE

ARRESTED: Juan G. Morales
200 Sharp Street
Hackettstown, NJ
Date of Birth: July 15, 1991
Employer: none

On September 11th, 2009, Juan G. Morales, 18, residing at 200 Sharp Street, Hackettstown, NJ, was arrested after six month long undercover narcotics investigation conducted by the Warren County Prosecutor's Office-Narcotic Task Force, the Hackettstown Police Department and the Phillipsburg Police Department Special Operations Division.

Mr. Morales is charged with one (1) count of unlawful possession of a controlled dangerous substance, specifically cocaine, a third degree offense in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(1), one (1) count of unlawful possession of a controlled dangerous substance, specifically marijuana in a quantity greater than 50 grams, a fourth degree offense in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(3), one (1) count of possession with intent to distribute cocaine, a second degree offense in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5a(1) and 2C:35-5b(2), one (1) count of possession with intent to distribute marijuana, a third degree offense in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5a(1) and 2C:35-5b(11) and one (1) count of unlawful possession of a firearm while violating N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5a, a second degree offense in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-4.1. On September 11, 2009, law enforcement officers from various agencies executed a search warrant at the home of Mr. Morales following a long term investigation into alleged drug distribution in the Hackettstown area. These charges are a result of the items found in the home during the execution of that search warrant.

Each second degree crime carries a maximum penalty of up to ten (10) years in New Jersey State Prison. Each third degree crime carries a maximum penalty of up to five (5) years in New Jersey State Prison. Each fourth degree crime carries a maximum penalty of up to eighteen (18) months in New Jersey State Prison. The cocaine possession charge carries a fine of up to \$35,000 and the possession of marijuana charge carries a fine of up to \$25,000. The possession with intent to distribute cocaine charge carries a fine up to \$150,000 while the possession with intent to distribute marijuana charge carries a fine of up to \$25,000.

Mr. Morales was lodged in the Warren County Correctional Center in default of \$150,000 bail without a 10% option. First appearance before Warren County Superior Court Judge John J. Coyle, Jr. is scheduled for today, September 14, 2009.

Please be advised that the defendant is presumed innocent of all charges unless and until proven guilty.



THOMAS SCOTT FERGUSON
Prosecutor of Warren County

Dated: September 14, 2009