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County of Warren

PRESS RELEASE

Defendant: Taisha Rivera
330 Mt. Prospect Avenue
Apt. 21
Newark, N.J. 07104
DOB: 5/1/1980

On Friday, October 14, 2011, the Honorable Ann R. Bartlett sentenced Taisha Rivera, 31, of Newark, N.J. to 120 days in the Corrections Labor Assistance Program (CLAP) as a condition of probation on two counts of Distribution of Heroin, each a third degree offense in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5a(1) and 2C:35-5b(3). Pursuant to a negotiated guilty plea, the State sought a sentence of three (3) years in New Jersey State Prison.

At a guilty plea hearing on July 7, 2011, the defendant admitted that on June 9, 2010, in Hackettstown, she distributed in excess of 100 bags of heroin to an undercover police officer. The cost of the heroin was \$500 and the defendant made a profit of \$140. She also admitted that on June 11, 2010, in Independence Township, she distributed 602 bags of heroin to the same undercover police officer. The cost of the heroin was \$2500 and the defendant was to make a profit of \$800. Immediately after the second distribution occurred, the defendant was arrested. The total amount of heroin distributed was .48 ounces.

On March 18, 2011, during an appeal of a decision to exclude the defendant from drug court probation, a Superior Court Judge found that defendant "played a role in a large scale drug distribution organization that renders her a significant danger to the community if placed on probation." Her appeal was denied. Despite her rejection from drug court, Judge Bartlett placed the defendant on an even less restrictive form of probation than drug court.

CLAP is a program administered by the Warren County Correctional Center that allows certain offenders to avoid serving actual jail time by participating in a work program. The participants in the program report to the jail in the morning and return home in the evening. CLAP sentences are served on Saturdays and Sundays between 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Dated: _____

10/17/11


THOMAS S. FERGUSON
Warren County Prosecutor