



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

Evidence involved in lab scandal, Roslindale man still gets jail time

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Dedham Police saw what they believed to be a hand-to-hand drug transaction in a hotel parking lot in March of 2010. The detective conducting the surveillance radioed to marked cruisers in the area to stop the involved cars as they left the area.

"When police attempted to pull over the car that John Jimenez was driving, he initially stopped and appeared to comply," District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey said. "He then took off and led police on a high speed chase through several areas of Dedham. Jimenez drove up onto the sidewalk several times and collided with two different cruisers, trying to force them off the road. Jimenez ultimately lost control of the vehicle and crashed into a fence bordering the Dedham Middle School property."

After the crash, Jimenez, age 27 of Meyer Street in Roslindale, jumped from his own vehicle and took off running. When officers caught up with him after a brief foot chase, he violently resisted arrest and ignored repeated demands to put his hands behind his back.

Police found a large clear plastic bag containing white powder his possession and several smaller baggie "corners" containing a white powder in his right hand. That powder was field tested and came up positive for cocaine. Dedham police weighed the substance and found it to exceed 41 grams. During the chase and assaults, other suspected buyer's car was not stopped.

"He was eventually indicted for Trafficking Cocaine in excess of 28 grams, Drug Free School Zone violation, two counts of Assault and Battery with a Dangerous Weapon (his vehicle), Resisting Arrest and Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle," District Attorney Morrissey said.

But when the drug certificates confirming the Dedham Police's field testing that the powder contained cocaine were from the Hinton Drug Lab, and signed by chemist Annie Dookhan who has since pled guilty and been sent to prison for faking some of the drug tests she claimed to have performed.

"This case illustrates why we continue to look at the so-called Dookhan defendants on a case-by-case basis and determine what part of each case can and should be salvaged," District Attorney Morrissey said. "We dismissed the drug charges in light of the potentially tainted evidence, but there was more criminal conduct here and it needed to be addressed forcefully."

Assistant District Attorney Keith McCray asked Dec. 30, 2013 that Jimenez be sentenced to 2 years in jail with 18 months to serve and the balance suspended during 3 years of probation after Jimenez admitted his guilt. Defense attorney William Keefe requested probation. Norfolk Superior Court Judge Kenneth Fishman sentenced him to 2 years with 6 months to serve, the balance suspended for 3 years on the non-drug charges.