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### **Defendant Sentenced to 18 Years in Prison Following \$2.1 Million Cocaine Bust**

**Brighton, CO** — Today, 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney Brian Mason is announcing the 18-year prison sentence for Mario Diaz-Miranda, 28, following his guilty plea on May 11, 2021, to Distribution of a Controlled Substance (DF1).

On January 8, 2021, following a lengthy surveillance operation, investigators with the North Metro Drug Task Force arranged to buy two kilograms of cocaine from Mario Diaz-Miranda in Thornton. The purchase was completed in a parking lot and Diaz-Miranda was arrested shortly thereafter. Investigators found cocaine inside of Diaz-Miranda's vehicle and an additional 48 kilograms were located inside of a wall of an apartment associated with the defendant. In total, \$2.1 million worth of cocaine was seized as a result of this investigation.

On May 11, 2021, Diaz-Miranda pleaded guilty to Distribution of a Controlled Substance (DF1). On June 29, 2021, the defendant was sentenced to 18 years in the Department of Corrections followed by three years of parole.

**“This was an extraordinary amount of drugs to get off our streets” said District Attorney Brian Mason. “Drug traffickers pose a significant danger to this community and we’re working tirelessly to combat them. I applaud the North Metro Task Force for their work on this case.”**

Senior Deputy District Attorney Todd Bluth led the prosecution of this case. The North Metro Drug Task Force is comprised of members from the following agencies: Adams County Sheriff's Office, Westminster Police Department, Thornton Police Department, Commerce City Police Department, Broomfield Police Department, Brighton Police Department, Northglenn Police Department and the Federal Heights Police Department. The task force performs large-scale and long-term investigations designed to disrupt and dismantle narcotics trafficking organizations and their sources of supply.

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*District Attorney Mason assumed the oath of office on January 12, 2021. The 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney's Office endeavors to seek justice on behalf of the citizens of Adams and Broomfield counties in felony and misdemeanor cases. DA Mason and his staff are dedicated to transforming the criminal justice system to better serve the citizens of the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.*

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