

# Man found guilty of trying to sell cocaine in Target parking lot

March 15, 2011

Carver County Attorney Mark Metz announced the conviction of 30-year-old man for attempting to sell cocaine in the parking lot of the Chanhassen Target.

According to a press release, Noe Pliego Casique was found guilty of conspiracy to sell cocaine in the first degree and possession of cocaine in the fifth degree.

On July 1, 2010, the Carver County Sheriff's Office, working as agents of the Southwest Metro Drug Task Force, obtained information from a confidential reliable informant that Casique could supply him with a large quantity of cocaine, the release stated.

Acting on this tip, the task force set up surveillance and conceived a plan to intercept the drug deal. The task force observed Casique's white Chevrolet Malibu, with personalized license plates, arrive at the informant's residence in south Minneapolis. From there, Casique, the informant, and two other individuals in the vehicle travelled to the Target parking lot in Chanhassen. The task force was in contact with the informant during the trip, who confirmed that the cocaine was in the vehicle.

Once in the Target parking lot, the task force moved in to detain suspects and intercept the cocaine. As a result of this bust, authorities seized in excess of 42 grams of cocaine.

On March 9, following a two-day jury trial, a Carver County jury found Casique guilty of both drug counts. The case was prosecuted by Assistant County Attorney Colin Haley.

"I want to acknowledge the great work and dedication of both Mr. Haley and the task force," said Metz in the release. "Their efforts led to not only the conviction of Casique, but also the removal of a substantial amount of drugs off the street."