

Office of the Kane County State's Attorney



JAMIE L. MOSSER

State's Attorney

Kane County Judicial Center
37W777 Route 38 Suite 300
St. Charles, Illinois 60175

General Offices: (630) 232-3500
Contact:
Christopher Nelson (630) 232-3500

DuPAGE-KANE TASK FORCE YIELDS DRUG ARREST, SEIZURE OF COCAINE & FENTANYL BAIL SET AT \$500,000 FOR MELROSE PARK MAN

December 3, 2021

A Melrose Park man is the first to be charged in a joint task force operation between the Kane and DuPage County sheriff's offices.

Kane County State's Attorney Jamie Mosser and DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin announce today that 44 -year-old **Jose R. Valdez** is charged with the offenses of:

- Unlawful possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver cocaine, Class X felony
- Unlawful possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver fentanyl, Class X felony
- Unlawful possession of cannabis with intent to deliver, Class 3 felony
- Installing a false compartment in a vehicle to transport a controlled substance, Class 4 felony

Kane and DuPage County prosecutors allege that on Dec. 1, 2021, a Kane County sheriff's deputy, assigned to the new DuKane Sheriff's Task Force, stopped a vehicle that was eastbound in Interstate 88 near the Route 59 exit in DuPage County after observing multiple alleged traffic violations. Valdez, the alleged driver, was the vehicle's lone occupant. During the stop the deputy conducted a lawful search of the vehicle and allegedly found more than 900 grams of cocaine, between 15 and 100 grams of fentanyl, and between 200 and 500 grams of marijuana. The deputy also allegedly found hidden compartments that had been added to the vehicle.

Valdez appeared today in DuPage County bond court. DuPage County Judge Daniel Guerin set Valdez's bail at \$500,000, with 10 percent (\$50,000) to apply for bond. If Valdez posts bond, he must prove that the money is not the result of unlawful activity.

Valdez's next court appearance for 10 a.m. Jan. 5, 2022, in Courtroom 4006 at the DuPage County Judicial Center in Wheaton.

State's Attorney Mosser said:

"Given the complexities of drug dealing and trafficking, and the efforts taken to surreptitiously disguise these illegal practices, it is important for multiple jurisdictions to work together to stop drug dealers from bringing dangerous drugs into our communities. I appreciate the cooperative work of the Kane County Sheriff Ron Hain and DuPage County Sheriff Jim Mendrick to keep our communities safe. Our office plans to work cooperatively with State's Attorney Berlin to see that Mr. Valdez is held accountable for his crimes."

State's Attorney Berlin said:

"I commend DuPage County Sheriff James Mendrick, Kane County Sheriff Ron Hain and their offices for their work not only on this case, but also for their ongoing, proactive efforts in keeping dangerous narcotics off our streets. While we will never know for sure, it is quite possible that considering the amount of fentanyl allegedly found in this case, multiple lives were saved. I also thank State's Attorney Mosser for her office's assistance throughout this entire case."

Sheriff Hain said:

"This important arrest and dangerous drug seizure is the result of the high level of training, experience and commitment our detectives possess, along with the force-multiplier and excellent professional relationship they maintain with their DuPage counterparts and Sheriff Mendrick.

Sheriff Mendrick said:

"I'm happy that our new cooperative effort is bearing fruit so fast. Most troubling about this arrest is the amount of deadly fentanyl that was destined to wreak more havoc on our community. Nationwide, our overdose rates are at an all-time high and what we took off the road Wednesday is what's contributing to those numbers."

The charges against Valdez are not proof of guilt. Valdez is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial in which it is the state's burden to prove his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

Jose R. Valdez: Age 44 (d.o.b. 9-9-1977), of the 1300 block of North 24th Avenue, Melrose Park, Illinois. Case No. 21CF2153.