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ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL: CHICAGO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSING MORE THAN 900 GRAMS OF HEROIN

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul today announced a Chicago man pleaded guilty to possessing more than 900 grams of heroin.

Enrique Garcia, 27, of Chicago, pleaded guilty in Kane County Circuit Court to possession of a controlled substance with the intent to deliver, a Class X felony, and was sentenced to 15 years in prison. The statewide grand jury indicted Garcia and Freddy Gutierrez, 29, in 2018 on charges the men possessed and intended to deliver heroin and meth to an undercover officer. In April, Gutierrez was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

"This case underscores the importance of local, state and federal law enforcement agencies partnering to prevent illegal drugs from entering and being distributed throughout communities," Raoul said. "I would like to thank the Kane County State's Attorney and Homeland Security Investigations for their collaboration, which has allowed us to stop two individuals from bringing heroin and meth – and the devastation they cause – into Kane County."

Raoul's office prosecuted the case following an investigation by Homeland Security Investigations (HSI). In May 2018, Garcia and Gutierrez arranged to deliver more than 900 grams of heroin and meth to an undercover HSI officer at a Walmart parking lot in Aurora, Illinois. HSI officers stopped Garcia and Gutierrez when they arrived at the parking lot and removed around 1,400 grams of heroin and 500 grams of meth from their vehicle. The heroin was packaged in plastic bags and stuffed inside multiple 1-by-1-inch wooden posts.

"Today's guilty plea is a great example of law enforcement partners working collaboratively to help make Chicago a safer city," said Angie M. Salazar, special agent in charge, HSI Chicago. "We will continue to hold drug dealers accountable for their unlawful and dangerous conduct."

The Attorney General's office prosecuted the case with Kane County State's Attorney Jamie L. Mosser's office.

"Professional drug dealers like Mr. Garcia cause more problems for our society by their distribution of drugs to those who have addiction issues," Mosser said. "This leads to continued addiction issues, continued criminal behavior and can result in overdose related deaths. The best protection for our society is to see these individuals locked behind bars with the hope that they will learn from their actions. My thanks to Homeland Security Investigations for their thorough investigation and to the Attorney General's office and to Kane County Assistant State's Attorney Kelly Orland for their diligent prosecution of this matter."

Assistant Attorney General Gregg Gansmann prosecuted the case for Raoul's Statewide Grand Jury Bureau. Kelly Orland prosecuted the case for the Kane County State's Attorney's office.