

Dominican national sentenced for unlawful re-entry

A Dominican national was sentenced today for unlawful re-entry of a deported alien. After reentering the United States within months of being removed, the defendant was charged with a heroin-related offense and was in possession of a phone that had been used in a drug transaction with an individual who died of an apparent overdose.

Joel Perez Matos, 35, who resided in Boston, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Indira Talwani to 48 months in prison and three years of supervised release. In August 2020, Matos pleaded guilty to unlawfully re-entering the United States after being deported. He has been detained since his arrest in April 2020 and will be subject to deportation following his sentence.

Perez Matos unlawfully re-entered the United States after being deported in December 2019. He had previously been removed in February 2016, and had unlawfully returned to the United States later that year.

On March 22, 2020, within a few months of having been removed from the United States, Perez Matos was arrested by local law enforcement in Stow and charged with a heroin-related offense. At the time of his arrest, Perez Matos was in possession of a cell phone that had been used the previous day to set up a drug transaction with a Massachusetts resident. On March 22, 2020, that resident died of an apparent drug overdose. When arrested, Perez Matos presented police with an out-of-state driver's license in a fake name.

United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling and Todd Lyons, Field Office Director, Enforcement and Removal Operations, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Boston, made the

announcement today. The Stow Police Department also provided valuable assistance. Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Abely, Chief of Lelling's Major Crimes Unit, prosecuted the case.