

Man who escaped from prison in Puerto Rico in 1994, sentenced for fraud in Massachusetts

A Worcester man was sentenced Friday in federal court in Worcester for Social Security fraud and aggravated identity theft.

Jose Lopez Rosado, 51, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Timothy S. Hillman to six months in prison to be served concurrent to his current state sentence of 9-10 years for possession with intent to distribute fentanyl, plus two years in prison to be served consecutive to his state sentence, and two years of supervised release. In August 2019, Lopez Rosado pleaded guilty to one count of false representation of a Social Security number and one count of aggravated identity theft. Lopez Rosado was arrested and charged in a July 2018 federal law enforcement sweep of 25 individuals accused of document and benefit fraud.

On Feb. 9, 2016, Lopez Rosado applied for a duplicate Massachusetts driver's license using the name and Social Security number of another U.S. citizen. Based on the application, Lopez Rosado was issued a duplicate driver's license in the name of the other U.S. citizen. Lopez Rosado also used that name and Social Security number to receive MassHealth benefits.

According to court documents, the defendant escaped from prison in Puerto Rico in 1994 while serving a 30-year sentence for second-degree murder. His true identity was not known until he was arrested in July 2018.

Dubbed "Double Trouble," the July 2018 investigation was

conducted by Homeland Security Investigation's Document and Benefit Fraud Task Force (DBFTF), comprised of local, state and federal agencies with expertise in detecting, deterring and disrupting organizations and individuals involved in various types of document, identity and benefit fraud schemes.

United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling; Jason Molina, Acting Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations in Boston; Phillip Coyne, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Inspector General; Scott Antolik, Special Agent in Charge of the Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General, Office of Investigations, Boston Field Division; Christina Scaringi, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Inspector General, Northeast Regional Office; Michael Mikulka, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, Office of Investigations; William B. Gannon, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Department of State, Diplomatic Security Service, Boston Field Office; Joseph W. Cronin, Inspector in Charge of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service; Colonel Christopher Mason, Superintendent of the Massachusetts State Police; and Massachusetts State Auditor Suzanne M. Bump made the announcement. Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Karen Burzycki of Lelling's Major Crimes Unit prosecuted the case.