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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Mexican Citizen Convicted for Methamphetamine**  
***Sentenced to Mandatory 11 years***  
***State v. Joel Flores-Lopez, 2014-CR-3487/2***

DAYTON, OH (12/22/2015) – Prosecutor Mat Heck, Jr. announced today that 30-year-old **Joel Flores-Lopez**, of Mexico, was sentenced today to the mandatory maximum of 11 years in prison for possession of over eight pounds of methamphetamines.

The defendant was stopped on a traffic violation on I-75 near Edwin C. Moses in Dayton on October 8, 2014. The defendant did not have a valid driver's license and was in the United States illegally. The officers' K9 alerted the officers that there were possibly illegal drugs in the vehicle. A search of the vehicle discovered over eight pounds of methamphetamines in the vehicle. Investigators believe the defendant was smuggling the drugs from Mexico to the Miami Valley.

The defendant was tried and convicted by a jury on one count of Aggravated Possession of Drugs. The count included a Major Drug Offender specification, which means the defendant's prison sentence is a mandatory 11 years.

Prosecutor Heck continued, "This defendant has been deported back to Mexico a number of times previously by the federal government. We cannot and will not tolerate having people here illegally, bringing massive amounts of methamphetamines into our community. These drugs destroy lives and create additional crime in our neighborhoods."

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