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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY ATTORNEY
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MAN SENTENCED TO 4 - 10 YEARS FOR BURGLARIES TOTALING OVER \$100,000

Hillsborough County Attorney Dennis C. Hogan announces that on January 24, 2012, Mario Rojas, formerly of Lawrence, MA, was sentenced to 4 – 10 years at the New Hampshire State Prison for Men after pleading guilty in November 2011 to fourteen counts of Burglary stemming from incidents all occurring in Nashua in the summer of 2010. Judge Diane Nicolosi cited victim input and the total amount of damage caused by Rojas as two of the factors she weighed in her decision.

Between May and September, 2010, the Burglary Unit at the Nashua Police Department conducted an investigation into a number of burglaries with similar characteristics. The burglaries all happened when the victims were away from their home for the night. In some of the burglaries the victim's own vehicle was used to transport items from the home. In most of the burglaries the assailants took any and all jewelry, electronics and any other property of value from within the homes.

Nashua police first learned about Rojas's involvement in the burglaries after questioning one his co-defendants, Leonardo Barroso, about collectible fireworks taken during one of the burglaries. A neighbor had seen Barroso and another co-defendant lighting off these fireworks in early September, 2010. Barroso, who has previously pleaded guilty to the crimes, admitted to police that he had been involved in several burglaries along with Rojas in the Nashua area during that summer. Barroso also said that Rojas had told him about several other burglaries he had committed without his assistance. Barroso told police that after the burglaries, they would bring the property back to the apartment of Rojas's girlfriend in Nashua.

Nashua police then got a warrant to search the apartment. During the search, the Nashua Police seized a number of items from both inside the home as well as from a storage unit behind the home. Victims in each of the burglaries were able to identify property that was recovered during the search. These items included multiple flat-screen TVs, and other electronic and personal items. Much of the jewelry that was stolen during each burglary was never recovered. The total value of all of the property taken during the fourteen burglaries amounted to well over \$100,000.

Assistant County Attorney David Tencza prosecuted the case for the State. At the sentencing hearing, Attorney Tencza asked for a sentence of 4 – 10 years at the New Hampshire State Prison. Many of the victims also attended the sentencing hearing and addressed the Court. Judge Nicolosi thanked the victims who either addressed the Court personally or submitted a Victim Impact Statement.

“The victim input to the Court was very powerful. I think their thoughts on how burglaries affect a family made an impact on the Court not only for this case but for future burglary cases as well.” said Attorney Tencza, who also praised the work of the Nashua Police Department. “The convictions in this case also highlight the exceptional work of the Burglary Unit detectives in the Nashua Police Department. Detectives Dan Archambault and Rob MacLeod were able to link Mario Rojas to a number of these burglaries because they had been focusing on all of the burglaries happening in Nashua at this time.” Tencza said.

For questions, please call County Attorney Dennis Hogan at the County Attorney’s Office in Manchester at 627-5605.

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