



PRESS RELEASE

Repeat DWI Offender Sentenced to Eight Years

March 11, 2016

Bryan, TX – Elias Lerma, 51, of Navasota, was revoked and sentenced to eight years in prison for Driving While Intoxicated after violating the terms of his probation.

On July 7, 2010, Lerma was stopped for speeding. When the trooper approached the defendant's car, he could detect a strong odor of alcohol coming from the defendant. The defendant admitted to drinking that evening and refused to complete the Standardized Field Sobriety Tests, telling the trooper to arrest him. The defendant also refused to provide a breath or blood sample.

The defendant was arrested for felony DWI due to his two prior DWI convictions. He pled guilty in May 2011, and was placed on probation for five years.

On November 6, 2014, the defendant was arrested in Brazos County for Driving While License Suspended.

The defendant also had multiple arrests between October and November 2014 for offenses in Grimes County, including, Assault Family Violence, Terroristic Threat, and Driving While License Suspended. Those crimes were handled by the Grimes County District Attorney's Office

A Motion to Revoke was filed in Brazos County seeking to have the defendant's probation revoked. Prior to a hearing on that motion, the defendant admitted his guilt in the new offenses, as well as his use of cocaine while on probation, failure to pay court costs and supervision fees, and to operating a vehicle without an ignition interlock device. His violations resulted in an eight-year sentence.

Felony DWI is a third-degree felony, which is punishable by up to 10 years in prison. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Philip McLemore.

“Probation is a second chance and an opportunity for people to correct their behavior. They will be held accountable when they refuse to do so.” - Philip McLemore, Assistant District Attorney

