



# NEWS RELEASE

## OCEAN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

### OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND



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**For Immediate Release:**

### OCPD NARCS PREVENT COCAINE FROM COMING TO OCEAN CITY

Earlier this month, Erick Hinojosa Zavala, 29-years-old, of Berlin, Maryland, was found guilty by a Jefferson County, Texas Jury of Drug Trafficking and was sentenced to five years in prison. The drugs in which Zavala was trafficking were destined to be sold in Ocean City, Maryland. The case against Zavala, which began in 2007, combined the efforts the OCPD Narcotics Unit, the Jefferson County, Texas Sheriff's Department and Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and resulted in the seizure of half a Kilogram of Cocaine.

The investigation of Zavala began in October 2007 when OCPD narcotics detectives developed information from various sources that shipments of Cocaine were being trafficked to the Ocean City area by unknown Hispanic males. Investigators were able to develop several suspects and began inquiries as to their activities. Undercover drug operations lead investigators to Zavala. Detectives were able to purchase Cocaine from Zavala.

In November 2008, OCPD drug investigators learned that Zavala would be traveling to Jefferson County, Texas to make a large purchase of Cocaine and return to Worcester County, Maryland, where the bulk of the Cocaine would be sold. The police investigation tracked Zavala leaving Maryland traveling to Texas. During the investigation Zavala was apprehended in Jefferson County, Texas and found to be in possession of over half a Kilogram of Cocaine, having a potential street value of \$63,000.



Erick Hinojosa Zavala

The OCPD acknowledges the combined efforts of the Jefferson County, Texas Sheriff's Office as well as the DEA for their outstanding assistance in apprehending a local Cocaine trafficker. The seamless integration of personnel and resources from these agencies has kept these drugs off our streets.

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Quite often, citizens' hunches turn out to be valuable information to us. If you have information that you feel we should know, we encourage you to leave us e-mail. [OCPD@occean.com](mailto:OCPD@occean.com)