

# NEW BEDFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



871 ROCKDALE AVENUE • NEW BEDFORD, MA • 02740

## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

(PR 1 - 1)

For Immediate Release

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Lieutenant Jeffrey P. Silva  
Public Information Officer

See Also:     2007-24184  
                  2008-00066

Office: 508.979.1688

Email: [jpsilva@newbedford-ma.gov](mailto:jpsilva@newbedford-ma.gov)

### GUN TOTING DRUG DEALER HELD WITHOUT BAIL

New Bedford, Massachusetts – Kevin J. MENESES (22 years old) of 523 North Front Street in New Bedford who was arrested by New Bedford Police Narcotics Detective Dan Amaral on December 31, 2007 was held without bail after a Dangerousness Hearing this past Friday, January 4, 2008, in New Bedford 3<sup>rd</sup> District Court.

Narcotics Detectives conducting surveillance in the North Front Street area arrested MENESES after they observed him engaged in what appeared to be a drug transaction last Monday night (12.31.2007) just before midnight on North Front St in the area of Eugenia Street. Narcotics detectives also arrested two other males who were later identified as Timothy FONSECA (42 years old) of 125 Eugenia Street and Nuno PORTO (25 years old) of 91 Eugenia Street in New Bedford.

After the suspected transaction, detectives arrested FONSECA and PORTO and retrieved what is suspected to be .5 grams of crack cocaine from FONSECA. After arresting FONSECA and PORTO, other detectives stopped MENESES. Upon seeing the detectives approach him, MENESES immediately placed his hands in his pockets. Once detectives subdued MENESES, their search turned up a loaded, .22 caliber semi automatic handgun in one pocket and a marijuana cigarette and the suspected cash he obtained from his drug transaction in his other pockets.

MENESES later claimed that he had bought the firearm on the street from an unknown male and that he was carrying it because he was afraid that FONSECA and PORTO might try to rob him when he sold them cocaine. MENESES later bragged to detectives that he was prepared to use the firearm if necessary if someone had tried to rob him during his drug deal.

Timothy FONSECA and Nuno PORTO were each charged with:

- (1) **Possession of cocaine;** and
- (2) **Conspiracy to violate the Controlled Substances Act.**

Kevin MENESES was charged with:

- (1) **Distribution of cocaine;**
- (2) **Possession of marijuana;**
- (3) **Unlawful carrying of a loaded firearm;**
- (4) **Carrying a firearm without a license;** and
- (5) **Unlawful possession of ammunition**