

Local police officers among witnesses called by Kansas prosecutors

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

Rodolfo Enriquez, who had previously listed his address as Imperial, was convicted of conspiring to commit first degree murder and cocaine trafficking in a highly publicized case in Dodge City, Kan. last month.

Sgt. Rob Browning and Officer Kyle Hansen of the Imperial police department were among the witnesses called by the prosecution in the Ford County (Kan.) jury trial.

Enriquez was found guilty of both the murder and drug charges on Aug. 28 after the jury deliberated about two hours, according to the Dodge City Daily Globe.

He is awaiting sentencing.

The Kansas newspaper reported the charges against Enriquez stemmed from allegations that he was part of a conspiracy to kill drug dealer, Servando Acosta.

The case broke after Noel Trejo, who had also previously listed Imperial as home, turned himself in to Dodge City police after getting cold feet about participating in the murder plot with Enriquez.

Using information from Trejo, Imperial police were contacted in January by a Dodge City detective that cocaine involved in the case was being stored at the Imperial Mini Storage units.

After securing a search warrant, Imperial police found about a kilo of cocaine stored at the units on north Broadway.

Browning and Hansen were in Dodge City Aug. 24-26 for their testimony.

Browning said Acosta's murder was apparently planned in Imperial, according to other testimony at the trial, and there were allegedly plans to actually commit the murder here at one time.

Acosta, the drug dealer, pled to drug charges. Another man involved in the case, Martin Lugo, also pled out. There were originally six men charged in the case.

Trejo, the man who cooperated with Dodge City officers, reportedly is being relocated by U.S. Marshals and is not expected to be charged in the case, Browning said.