

State of South Carolina
Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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Solicitor
W. Walter Wilkins

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

December 6, 2018

32 Year Sentence for Woman Smuggling 7 Kilos of Heroin on Interstate 85

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that VICTORIA LORRAINE SANCHEZ, age 25, was convicted on December 5, 2018 by a Greenville County jury of Trafficking in Heroin and Unlawful Conduct towards a Child and was sentenced by the Honorable Letitia Verdin to 32 years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections.

Evidence presented during the trial by Assistant Solicitor Katryna Bevis Owens established that on June 28, 2017, VICTORIA LORRAINE SANCHEZ was traveling on Interstate 85 in Greenville County. Deputies with the Greenville County Sheriff's Office stopped SANCHEZ for following too closely and became increasingly suspicious when SANCHEZ was unable to produce a driver's license or valid proof of insurance. In addition, SANCHEZ gave suspicious answers to questions about how she purchased the car the day before in Atlanta, Georgia. Based on those observations and other apparent indicators of potential criminal activity, deputies asked SANCHEZ for consent to search her car. SANCHEZ agreed, and deputies located a hidden compartment under the rear seat of the car. The compartment was concealed beneath the seat where SANCHEZ'S 3 year old child was seated. Inside the compartment, deputies located 14 plastic bags containing 6.94 kilograms (more than 17 pounds) of packaged heroin. Testimony provided at trial established that the potential street value of this quantity of heroin could be as much as \$7 million once it is prepared for distribution to heroin users.