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Fake Viagra, Xanax and death threats send salesman to prison



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Sun Sentinel

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Former bar owner sentenced for selling counterfeit Viagra and Xanax

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When a South Florida businessman was sentenced Thursday for illegally selling steroids and counterfeit Viagra and Xanax, he acknowledged that his loose lips nearly got him in a lot more trouble.

His colorful threats that he would like to have two men killed and his brother-in-law beaten up may have earned him a few extra months in federal prison, after prosecutors recommended a longer sentence than his two co-defendants received.

Frank Fiore, 60, of Parkland, was the owner of Havana Nights Cigar Bar and Lounge in **Boca Raton**, but his wife took over the business after he was arrested in July, according to court records.

U.S. District Judge Kenneth Marra sentenced Fiore to two years and eight months in prison Thursday in federal court in West Palm Beach. Fiore pleaded guilty last year to conspiring to traffic in counterfeit drugs and illegally distributing steroids.

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Fiore's flashy comments were secretly recorded during meetings with undercover investigators and a cooperating witness.

In April and May, Fiore asked the undercover witness to kill two men.

————— "Let's [expletive] him a little bit. He needs to get [expletive]ed a little bit ... I wanna put him in a [expletive]

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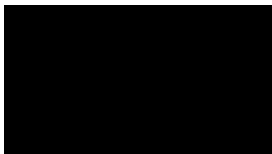
dumpster," Fiore said, according to a transcript of the recording.

Fiore later withdrew his request to kill one of the men because he did not want bad publicity to affect the opening of his bar, Osborne said. Fiore also suggested the undercover agents should break his brother-in-law's legs, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Marc Osborne.

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"I've made some mistakes and said some things that were stupid, for which I wholeheartedly apologize," Fiore told the judge.

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His lawyer Dave Bogenschutz said Fiore took no real action on the threats.

"Mr. Fiore has a big mouth, he got involved in the incident and began to talk through his hat ... but it all stops there," Bogenschutz told the judge.

Prosecutors said Fiore also offered to sell counterfeit \$100 bills, tried to help one of his associates buy two pounds of cocaine and played a role in helping another associate illegally sell an AK-47 to the investigators.

Co-defendant Anthony Carbone, 31, of Deerfield Beach, was sentenced last year to two years in prison for related drug charges.

And a third defendant Gary Lee Jones, 55, of **Boca Raton**, was sentenced last year to two years in prison for the drug conspiracy and possession of a firearm by a felon. Jones played a bit role in the investigation that led to disgraced baseball celebrity Alex Rodriguez's year-long suspension from the game. Baseball investigators paid Jones \$125,000 for records that showed some players were using performance-enhancing drugs and Rodriguez attended the Biogenesis anti-aging clinic in Coral Gables, according to published reports.

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