



Department of Justice

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Northern District of New York

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PRESS RELEASE

Guilty Plea in United States v. Frank Perotta

Andrew T. Baxter, Acting United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York, and John Pikus, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI, Albany Division, today confirmed that Frank Perotta, 48, of New Hartford, New York, pled guilty to making a false statement to the FBI in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001 as charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Syracuse, New York on December 10, 2008. Perotta's guilty plea was entered before U.S. District Court Judge David N. Hurd in Utica, New York. Judge Hurd has scheduled sentencing for June 16, 2009, at which time Perotta faces up to five years in prison, and a \$250,000.00 fine.

In 2006 and 2007, the FBI, the New York State Police, the Onondaga County Sheriffs Department, and the Oneida County Sheriffs Department had been investigating whether the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club NOMADS Chapter was engaged in racketeering activity in Central and Northern New York. Perotta was questioned by Special Agent Robert DeSantis of the FBI on two occasions, and in both incidents he denied talking with David Lust, a member of the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club NOMADS Chapter. Telephone records and testimony from other witnesses prove that this was false.

Acting United States Attorney Andrew T. Baxter had high praise for the collaborative efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the New York State Police, the Onondaga County Sheriffs Department and the Oneida County Sheriffs Department in connection with this investigation which resulted in the conviction of several members of the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club, a club prospect, and a number of other individuals. However, the Acting United States Attorney declined further comment on nature, scope, or subject of the investigation.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Gregory A. West.