

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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BUFFALO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DRUG CHARGES

BUFFALO, N.Y.--U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Thurmon Artis a/k/a "Peepers", 28, of Buffalo, N.Y., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge William M. Skretny to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, a \$1,000,000 fine, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary Catherine Baumgarten, who is handling the case, stated that the defendant conspired with others in the City of Buffalo in drug-trafficking activities, and in particular, the distribution of cocaine at various locations in Buffalo.

The plea is a part of an ongoing investigation on the part of Special Agents of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Wilbert L. Plummer, Acting Special Agent in Charge, New York Field Division.

Sentencing is scheduled for May 24, 2012, at 9:00 a.m., before Judge Skretny.

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