

Department of Justice

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HILL SENTENCED TO 5 YEARS IN PRISON

BUFFALO, N.Y. – **MARK HILL**, 48, of Buffalo, New York who pled guilty on June 15, 2009, to an indictment charging him with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute 100 kgs. or more of marijuana, was sentenced to a term of 5 years in prison, by Chief U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara, U.S. Attorney Kathleen M. Mehlretter of the Western District of New York announced today.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas S. Duszkievicz, who handled the case, stated that the defendant was arrested on December 14, 2007, along with three other individuals after agents of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Buffalo Narcotics and SWAT teams and the Cheektowaga Police Dept. seized a partially broken opened crate containing approximately 377 lbs. of marijuana delivered to the Afro Dogs Clubhouse at 1095 Genesee Street. HILL along with other co-defendants was found hiding near the crate. AUSA Duszkievicz stated that the defendant arranged for a member of the Afro Dogs Club to receive the package, and that the delivery of a crate containing 377 lbs. of marijuana to the Afro Dogs Clubhouse was made by an undercover Cheektowaga Police Officer. An additional crate containing 144 lbs. of marijuana was seized and opened pursuant to a search warrant issued by the judge of the Town of Cheektowaga. AUSA Duszkievicz stated that the Cheektowaga Police Dept. used a narcotics detection canine which alerted to both crates at a shipping company in Cheektowaga and, thereafter, obtained search warrants from the Town of Cheektowaga Judge to open the crates and later to deliver them to their intended

locations. The additional package went undelivered. The approximate street value of the marijuana delivered to the Afro Dogs Clubhouse ranged between \$301,600 and \$1.432 million.

The conviction was the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration under the direction of Resident Agent in Charge Charles Tomaszewski, which was initiated by the Cheektowaga Police Dept. and their Narcotics Unit under the direction of Chief of Police Christine M. Ziemba, with the assistance of the Buffalo Police Dept. Narcotics Unit and the Buffalo Police Dept. SWAT team, under the direction of Commissioner H. McCarthy Gipson.