

Department of Justice

United States Attorney Kathleen Mehlretter
Western District of New York

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CONTACT: Peggy Kelly McFarland
PHONE: (716) 843-5877
FAX: (716) 551-3051

MULLEN SENTENCED TO 210 MONTHS IN JAIL

BUFFALO, N.Y. – **RICHARD MULLEN**, 35, of Buffalo, NY, who pled guilty to engaging in a continuing criminal enterprise on Aug. 28, 2008, was sentenced on September 25, 2009, to a term of 210 months 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. Mary Clare Kane, who handled the case, stated that the Buffalo Task Force Group of the Drug Enforcement Administration began investigating the drug trafficking activities of **RICHARD MULLEN** and others. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) began the overall investigation when a drug courier was arrested in Ellis County, Kansas on March 2, 2003, and found to be in possession of 3 kilograms of cocaine destined for the Buffalo area. DEA learned of another seizure of cocaine in January of 2003, when two other drug couriers for the defendant were stopped in Omaha, Nebraska and found to be in possession of 10 kilograms of cocaine. **MULLEN** employed couriers to drive drugs from NYC and CA to Buffalo.

DEA's investigation led to six months of wire tapping over **MULLEN**'s telephones as well as the telephones of two of his cohorts. A law enforcement round-up occurred on August 3, 2004 and resulted in the seizure of drugs, currency, firearms and other drug-related paraphernalia.

During the plea hearing, the defendant admitted that from approximately 2001 to his arrest, he obtained quantities of cocaine from sources of supply in the Los Angeles, California and New York City areas, which the defendant distributed or caused to be distributed in the Western District of New York. During this period of time, the defendant utilized at least five other persons to assist him in his drug activities, including persons who drove to California and NYC to assist in mulling the kilogram quantities of cocaine back the WDNY for distribution here; persons who collected monies owed for drugs fronted to them so that he could reorder more cocaine from his CA and NYC sources; persons who rented vehicles in order that the trips to NYC and CA could take place; persons who stored drugs for him here in WDNY; and persons who assisted the defendant in laundering the proceeds of his drug dealing activities. On August 2, 2004, the defendant was arrested in Rochester, New York en route to New York City. Seized at the time of the defendant's arrest was \$6,547 in cash, a 1998 Ford Expedition, miscellaneous paperwork and a cellular telephone.

Mullen was indicted with 34 other individuals as a result of this investigation.

The conviction was the culmination of an investigation by Special Agents of Drug Enforcement Administration, Charles Tomaszewski, Resident Agent in Charge.