



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian
Northern District of New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACTS: Daniel C. Gardner (518) 314-7800

January 18, 2011

[Plattsburgh, New York]—United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian, Patrol Agent in Charge Norman Lague, United States Border Patrol, and Special Agent David Leu, Resident Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration, announce that Michael AZZARELLO, age 52, of Howard Beach, New York, was charged by criminal complaint on Tuesday, January 18, 2011, with Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute More Than 100 kilograms of Marijuana, a Schedule I Controlled Substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846. AZZARELLO appeared before United States Magistrate Judge Larry A. Kudrle in Plattsburgh, New York, today for an initial appearance. At the conclusion of the initial appearance, the Court ordered AZZARELLO remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal pending a detention hearing on Thursday, January 20, 2011, at 3:30 p.m. in Plattsburgh.

The charge in the Complaint carries a mandatory minimum sentence of five (5) years imprisonment, a maximum sentence of forty (40) years imprisonment, and a fine of up to \$2,000,000. United States Border Patrol agents arrested AZZARELLO after AZZARELLO led agents on a high-speed pursuit near the Canadian border.

The charge contained in the Complaint is merely an accusation, and a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

Any questions may be directed to Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel C. Gardner in Plattsburgh at 518-314-7800.