



# Department of Justice

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACTS: William Pericak (518) 431-0247  
Julie S. Pfluger (518) 314-7800

## DEFENDANT SENTENCED FOR POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE

### *Guilty Plea Leads to Sentence of 60 Months For Possession With Intent To Distribute More Than 100 Kilograms of Marijuana*

September 23, 2011

[Plattsburgh, New York]—United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian, Patrol Agent in Charge Norman Lague, United States Border Patrol, and Resident Agent in Charge David Leu, Drug Enforcement Administration, announced that MICHAEL AZZARELLO, age 52, of Ozone Park, NY, was sentenced yesterday to 60 months of imprisonment and 4 years of supervised release following his May 26, 2011 guilty plea to Possession With Intent to Distribute more than 100 Kilograms of Marijuana, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1).

In connection with his guilty plea, AZZARELLO admitted:

On January 18, 2011, at approximately 6:15 a.m., Border Patrol agents tried to stop MICHAEL AZZARELLO while he was driving in Moores, NY, but he led them on a high speed pursuit for approximately 20 miles until a tire deflation device was used to disable his vehicle. A search of his sport utility vehicle revealed over 100 kilograms of marijuana packed in hockey bags.

The investigation was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Agency with assistance from United States Border Patrol. The case was prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York.

Any questions may be directed to Assistant United States Attorney Julie S. Pfluger in Plattsburgh, New York at 518-314-7800.