

Department of Justice

United States Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr.
Western District of New York

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CONTACT: BARBARA BURNS
PHONE: (716) 843-5817
FAX: (716) 551-3051

OHIO MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN SEX TRAFFICKING CASE

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Johnny Ray Davis, most recently a resident of Ohio, pleaded guilty to making a false statement to officers of the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement before U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara. The charge carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a fine of \$250,000, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John E. Rogowski, who is handling the case, stated that in September 2011, the defendant attempted to enter Canada at the Peace Bridge port of entry with two female passengers. Canadian authorities refused entry to Davis because he was the subject of outstanding arrest warrants in the United States. The defendant and his passengers were escorted back across the Peace Bridge and turned over to United States Immigration officers.

During questioning, authorities determined that Davis lied about his whereabouts prior to crossing the Peace Bridge. In fact, subsequent investigation determined that the defendant was seeking to transport one of his female passengers for the purpose of engaging in prostitution.

“Our Office, along with our federal and international law enforcement partners, will work tirelessly to expose and prosecute those who engage in human trafficking,” said U.S. Attorney Hochul.

The plea is the result of an investigation by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge James C. Spero.

Sentencing is scheduled for April 25, 2012, at 12:30 pm before Judge Arcara.

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