

# Department of Justice

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

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## **NEW YORK CITY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO COCAINE CHARGES**

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Firkon James, a/k/a Roc, a/k/a Maurice Patterson, a/k/a Mark James, a/k/a John Atkins, 37, of New York City, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge David G. Larimer to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and distribution of 280 grams or more of cocaine base. The charge carries a mandatory minimum penalty of 20 years in prison, a maximum of life, a fine of \$20,000,000 or both. Under the terms of the plea agreement, James will receive a sentence of 25 years in prison, forfeit four vehicles, a firearm, and various rounds of ammunition seized during the investigation. This is James' sixth felony drug conviction.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert A. Marangola, who is handling the case, stated that James was transporting cocaine he purchased in New York City to an apartment in Winton Village in Rochester. Once in the apartment, the defendant processed, weighed, packaged, and stored the drugs, and later sold them in various quantities.

The conviction was the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration under the direction of Brian R. Crowell, Special Agent in Charge, New York Field Division, with assistance provided by the Greater Rochester Area Narcotics Enforcement Team (GRANET), under the direction of Lt. Joseph Morabito, the Monroe County District Attorney's Office, under the direction of Sandra Doorley, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, under the direction of Resident Agent in Charge Scott Heagney.

Sentencing is scheduled for October 25 at 3:00 pm before Judge Larimer.

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