

Department of Justice

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 15, 2012
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CONTACT: BARBARA BURNS
PHONE: (716) 843-5817
FAX: (716) 551-3051

BRIGHTON MEN CHARGED WITH HARBORING ILLEGAL ALIENS

ROCHESTER, N.Y.--U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Geoffrey Lechner, 51, and Douglas Lechner, 50, both of Brighton, N.Y., have been arrested and charged by Criminal Complaint with harboring illegal aliens. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, a fine of \$250,000 or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Marisa J. Miller, who is handling the case, stated that according to the Complaint, the defendants are the owners of Clover Lawn Care, Inc., a lawn care, landscaping and nursery business. The Complaint alleges that the defendants employed and provided housing to natives and citizens of Mexico and Guatemala, knowing that they were not lawfully present in the United States and did not have authorization to work in the United States.

The Criminal Complaint is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge James C. Spero, Special Agents of the United States Border Patrol under the direction of Assistant Patrol Agent in Charge Michael Werthman, and Officers of the Brighton Police Department, under the direction of Chief Mark T. Henderson.

The fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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