

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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THREE-TIME FELON CONVICTED OF COCAINE CONSPIRACY

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Samuel Maldonado, 54, of Rochester, N.Y., was found guilty, after a jury trial before U.S. District Judge Charles J. Siragusa, of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute, and to distribute, 500 grams or more of cocaine, and possession with intent to distribute cocaine.

Maldonado, who has prior state and federal drug trafficking convictions, faces a minimum 10 years in prison, a maximum of life, and an \$8,000,000 fine.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert A. Marangola, who handled the prosecution of the case, stated that Maldonado was arrested after members of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and Rochester Police Department executed a narcotics search warrant at his residence in Rochester on July 27, 2011. During the search, officers recovered approximately 63 grams of cocaine, hundreds of bags for packaging cocaine for sale, digital scales, and other drug trafficking paraphernalia.

The conviction is the result of an investigation on the part of the Firearms Suppression Unit, composed of law enforcement personnel from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives under the direction of Resident Agent in Charge Scott Heagney, and the Rochester Police Department, under the direction of Chief James M. Sheppard.

Sentencing is scheduled for August 3, 2012 before U.S. District Judge Charles J. Siragusa.

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