

# Department of Justice

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

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## **NIAGARA FALLS MAN CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTED WITNESS TAMPERING**

BUFFALO, N.Y.--U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Rodriguez Brown, 34, of Niagara Falls, N.Y., was arrested and charged by Criminal Complaint with attempting to corruptly persuade a witness or informant, with the intent to influence or prevent the testimony of that witness or information in a federal criminal trial. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, a fine of \$250,000, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary Catherine Baumgarten, who is handling the case, stated that according to the Criminal Complaint, Brown currently has an Indictment charging violations of narcotics and firearms statutes pending against him. The Complaint alleges that Brown attempted to pay a government witness who is cooperating against the defendant to change his testimony by denying that Brown has sold the witness cocaine.

Federal agents and Niagara Falls Police Department Detectives were alerted to Brown's attempts to bribe the cooperating witness prompting an investigation. The defendant was arrested in the parking lot of the Top's Market on Niagara Street, in the City of Buffalo on Thursday, April 12, where he had arranged to meet the cooperating witness to make a down payment for the bribe.

Brown is being held pending a detention hearing April 25, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.

"In this case, the defendant stands accused of attempting to pay a government witness to lie," said U.S. Attorney Hochul. "Because this Office takes seriously the obligation to tell the truth, we will not tolerate this or any other attempts to subvert the system."

The Criminal Complaint is part of an ongoing investigation by Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, under the direction of Resident Agent in Charge Francis J. Christiano, Detectives of the Niagara Falls Police Department under the direction of Superintendent John Chella, and with the assistance of the Buffalo Police Department, under the direction of Commissioner Daniel Derenda.

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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