

Department of Justice

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 19, 2012
www.usdoj.gov/usao/nyw

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

TWO GANG ASSOCIATES PLEAD GUILTY TO DRUG CHARGES

ROCHESTER, N.Y. - U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Earnest Baker a/k/a "Slay", 27, and Leandro Jones a/k/a "Gutta", 22, both of Rochester, N.Y., pleaded guilty to conspiring to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine before U.S. District Judge Charles J. Siragusa. The charges carry a maximum penalty of 40 years in prison, a fine of \$5,000,000, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas E. Gregory, who is handling the case, stated that the defendants were associates of a street crew that controlled the drug trade in the area of Mark Street and Hudson Avenue in Rochester for several years. Much of the street level drug activity occurred in plain view on the sidewalk in front of the Hello Hudson Mini Mart at 519 Hudson Avenue, as well as surrounding street corners and parking lots.

The crew also utilized rental apartments and abandoned houses from which they stored and sold cocaine and crack cocaine on a daily basis. Law enforcement officers responded to repeated citizen calls for service to combat the open air drug sales and shootings in the general area of Mark and Hudson Streets.

The defendants were arrested along with nine others in January 2012. To date, three defendants have been convicted.

The pleas are the culmination of an investigation on the part of the Special Agents of 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 Sheppard.

Sentencing for Earnest Baker is scheduled for January 25, 2012. Leandro Jones will be sentenced on January 29, 2012, both before Judge Siragusa.

#