

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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ROCHESTER MAN SENTENCED ON DRUG TRAFFICKING AND FIREARMS CHARGES

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Darnell Cooper, 27, of Rochester, N.Y., who was convicted of possession of crack cocaine with intent to distribute and possession of a .44 caliber revolver in the furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, was sentenced to six years in prison and three years supervised release by U.S. District Court Judge Charles J. Siragusa.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles Moynihan, who handled the case, stated that Cooper was arrested in November 2010. Rochester Police Officers stopped the defendant on Leighton Avenue after observing a traffic infraction. Officers then discovered that Cooper did not have a valid driver's license and reported that he appeared to be nervous. When asked why he was nervous, the defendant told the officers that he was in possession of a handgun. Officers then searched Cooper and found a loaded .44 caliber revolver in the waistband of his pants. The officers also found crack cocaine, powder cocaine and marijuana in Cooper's shirt and pants pockets. During an interview, the defendant admitted that he started selling cocaine, crack cocaine and marijuana to support his family because he had recently lost his job. He further stated that the firearm was for his protection.

The sentencing is the culmination of a investigation by Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearm and Explosives, under the direction of Scott Heagney, Resident Agent in Charge and the Rochester Police Department, under the direction of Chief James Sheppard.

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