

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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NIAGARA FALLS WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DISTRIBUTING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Chiaka Gabby, 21, of Niagara Falls, N.Y., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge William M. Skretny to possession with the intent to distribute cocaine base and conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute oxymorphone. The charges carry a minimum penalty of five years in prison, a maximum of 60 years, a \$3,000,000 fine or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John E. Rogowski, who is handling the case, stated that Gabby was involved in two separate criminal transactions. In the first drug case, on November 12, 2009, Gabby was observed by members of the Niagara Falls Police Department as she attempted to deliver 92 grams of cocaine base, commonly referred to as "crack cocaine," to another individual at a laundromat in Niagara Falls. The officers found the crack cocaine hidden in the defendant's laundry basket. In the second case, which took place in June, 2010, while she was released on bail from the earlier arrest, Gabby utilized a prescription which she knew was forged and fraudulent to obtain Opana pills, which contain the controlled substance oxymorphone, a highly addictive pain medication. The defendant paid \$1037 for the prescription using her New York State Medicaid card.

Gabby was arrested along with 13 others in January 2011. To date, eight defendants have been convicted.

The plea is the result of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Wilbert L. Plummer, Acting Special Agent in Charge, New York Field Division, the Niagara Falls Police Department, under the direction of John Chella, New York State Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (NYS-BNE), the Internal Revenue Service, the New York State Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and the Niagara County Sheriff's Drug Task Force.

Sentencing is scheduled for January 26, 2012 at 9:00 am before Judge Skretny.