

# Department of Justice

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

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## **BUFFALO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DRUG AND FIREARMS CHARGES**

BUFFALO, N.Y.--U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Jermaine A. Leatherwood, 31, of Buffalo, N.Y., pleaded guilty before Chief U.S. District Judge William M. Skretny to possession of firearms in furtherance of drug trafficking and distribution of cocaine. The charges carry a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in prison, a maximum of 20 years, a \$1,000,000 fine, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary Catherine Baumgarten, who is handling the case, stated that between September and October 2010, the defendant sold cocaine from his residence on Goethe Street in the City of Buffalo. On October 14, 2010, during a search of the residence by the Erie County Sheriff's Department, law enforcement officials seized cocaine, marijuana, two rifles, ammunition, and drug paraphernalia.

The plea is the culmination of an investigation by Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, under the direction of Resident Agent in Charge Frank Christiano and the Erie County Sheriff's Department, under the direction of Sheriff Timothy Howard.

Sentencing is scheduled for January 27, 2012, at 10:00 a.m., in Buffalo, N.Y., before Judge Skretny.