

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DRUG CHARGES

BUFFALO, N.Y.--U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Thomas P. Maxwell, 43, of Buffalo, N.Y., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara, to conspiracy to manufacture marijuana plants. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, a \$1,000,000 fine, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary Catherine Baumgarten, who is handling the case, stated that between January and April 2011, the defendant was engaged with other individuals in growing marijuana in a warehouse he owned on Adams Street in the City of Buffalo. On April 28, 2011, during a search of the building, law enforcement officials seized items used in a growing operation along with a shotgun and shotgun shells.

The plea is the culmination of an investigation by Special Agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of John P. Gilbride, Special Agent in Charge, New York Field Division and the Buffalo Police Department under the direction of Commissioner Daniel Derenda.

Sentencing is scheduled for January 9, 2012, at 12:30 p.m., in Buffalo, N.Y., before Judge Arcara.

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