

Department of Justice

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NIAGARA FALLS MAN SENTENCED FOR ENGAGING IN A CONTINUING CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Sean McIver, 32, of Niagara Falls, New York, who was convicted of engaging in a continuing criminal enterprise, was sentenced to 121 months in prison and five years supervised release by Chief Judge William M. Skretny.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert C. Moscati, who handled the case, stated that McIver acted as the leader of a narcotics trafficking street gang in the Niagara Falls area for over three years. McIver controlled or supervised at least five other drug dealers, engaged in multiple narcotics transactions and earned substantial income from the sale of crack cocaine.

McIver and 23 other individuals were arrested in a joint federal, state and local takedown on March 11, 2009. The arrests concluded a long-term investigation of many street gangs operating in Niagara Falls. To date, 20 of the defendants have been convicted.

“This defendant was the leader of a gang that attempted to fill the streets of our community with illegal narcotics,” said U.S. Attorney Hochul. “Gangs are also known to engage in violence and can literally make law abiding citizens feel like hostages in their own homes. This prosecution and the stiff sentence imposed on Mr. McIver should send a strong message that our Office, along with our federal and local partners, will be aggressive and persistent in tracking down these gangs. We will continue to do whatever it takes to rid our streets of these gangs whose actions can tear neighborhoods and communities apart.”

The sentencing is the result of an investigation on the part of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, under the direction of Special Agent in

Charge Frank Christiano; the Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Wilbert L. Plummer, Acting Special Agent in Charge, New York Field Division; the New York State Police, under the direction of Major Christopher Cummings; the Niagara Falls Police Department, under the direction of Superintendent John Chella; and the Niagara County District Attorney's Office, under the direction of District Attorney Michael Violante