

Department of Justice

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

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CONTACT: BARBARA BURNS
PHONE: (716) 843-5817
FAX: (716) 551-3051

MAN CONVICTED ON DRUG TRAFFICKING CHARGES

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that defendant Michael Morris, 47, of Buffalo, New York, was convicted after a jury trial of possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine and maintaining a premises for distribution of crack cocaine. Each felony conviction carries a maximum penalty of twenty (20) years in prison, a fine of \$ 1,000,000, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph M. Tripi, who handled the case, stated that the defendant sold crack cocaine from his residence, located at 97 St. Joseph, Buffalo, New York, approximately five (5) days per week from approximately November 2008 through and January 5, 2009. On January 5, 2009, members of the Buffalo Police Department Narcotics Squad executed a search warrant at the defendant's residence. The ensuing search of the residence revealed the presence of a quantity of crack cocaine in the defendant's bedroom, along with plastic baggies used to package saleable quantities of crack cocaine, and a digital scale containing crack cocaine residue.

The conviction was the culmination of an investigation on the part of the Buffalo Police Department, under the direction of Commissioner Daniel Derenda, and Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Francis J. Christiano.

Sentencing is scheduled for December 1, 2011 at 9 a.m. EST, in Buffalo, N.Y., in front of Chief U.S. District Judge William M. Skretny.

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