

# Department of Justice

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

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

## **STORE OWNER PLEADS GUILTY TO FOOD STAMP FRAUD**

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- U. S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Mousa Qadi, 34, of Rochester, NY, pleaded guilty to the unauthorized use, transfer, acquisition, alteration and possession of food stamp benefits before U. S. District Judge Charles J. Siragusa. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Tiffany H. Lee, who is handling the case, stated that between November 2008 and July 2010, the defendant fraudulently acquired and possessed \$120,000 in food stamp benefits issued by the United States Department of Agriculture while operating Nick's Super Store located at 460 Monroe Avenue in Rochester, NY. Food stamp benefits were issued by the Agriculture Department through New York State social service agencies to eligible beneficiaries who were required to purchase eligible food items. Qadi, however, purchased the food stamp benefits for less than their full value from the beneficiaries in exchange for cash. He did this by swiping the food stamp access device cards through the electronic funds transfer terminal installed at Nick's Super Store.

The plea is the culmination of an investigation on the part of the United States Department of Agriculture, Office of the Inspector General and the United States Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations under the direction of Special Agent in Charge, James C. Spero.

Sentencing is scheduled for January 18, 2012 at 10am before Judge Siragusa.