

Department of Justice

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOVEMBER 25, 2011
www.usdoj.gov/usao/nyw

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

TWO ARRESTED IN FIREBOMBING CASE

BUFFALO, N.Y.--United States Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced the arrest of Avery Ray, age 41, of Buffalo, and William Lovell Smith, age 44, of Buffalo, in connection with a firebombing of a Schreck Avenue house on November 1, 2011. Both Ray and Smith made initial appearances today before federal Magistrate Judge Jeremiah J. McCarthy on a Criminal Complaint charging them with possessing, and conspiring to possess, destructive devices without proper federal registration.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michael McCabe, who is handling the prosecution of this case, both Ray and Smith conspired, with at least two (2) others, to possess Molotov cocktails on November 1, 2011. At least one (1) of these Molotov cocktails was then used to firebomb the Schreck Avenue residence of a community activist, whom Ray and Smith believed had recently led to the arrest of a neighborhood drug dealer.

The arrests were the result of a joint and continuing investigation on the part of Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Firearms, Tobacco, and Explosives ("ATF") under the direction of Special Agent in Charge, Ronald B. Turk and Investigators from the Buffalo Police Department under the direction of Commissioner Daniel Derenda, and the Buffalo Fire Department under the direction of Commissioner Garnell W. Whitfield, Jr.

The fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

###