

# Department of Justice

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

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## **BUFFALO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO COCAINE CHARGES** **STEMMING FROM 31-GANG INVESTIGATION**

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Pinky Stover, 33, of Buffalo, N.Y., pleaded guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara for distributing crack cocaine. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, a \$5,000,000 fine or both.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael L. McCabe, Stover sold crack cocaine to a Confidential Informant working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in July 2008 on William Street (in the vicinity of Sherman Street) in Buffalo. Agents had identified Stover as a member of the "31-Gang." The guilty plea follows a lengthy investigation into the drug-trafficking activities of the "31-Gang" on Buffalo's east side, which resulted in the arrests of Stover and 33 others in February 2009. To date, 32 of the defendants have been convicted.

"The prosecution of violent drug and gun crimes continues to be a priority," said U.S. Attorney Hochul. "This case should send a message that if you join a gang, you will be identified and prosecuted."

The plea is the culmination of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Safe Streets Task Force, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Christopher M. Piehota and the Buffalo Police Department, under the direction of Commissioner Daniel Derenda.

Sentencing is scheduled for August 27, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. before Judge Arcara.

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