

Department of Justice

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MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DRUG AND MONEY LAUNDERING CHARGES

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that James Wiggins, 40, of Rochester, New York, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Charles J. Siragusa to conspiracy to distribute cocaine, cocaine base and heroin and money laundering. The drug conspiracy charge carries a minimum penalty of 20 years in prison, a maximum of life, a fine of \$8,000,000 or both. The money laundering charge carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, a fine of \$500,000 or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jennifer Noto, who is handling the case, stated that the defendant was involved in a drug conspiracy operating primarily on the West side of the City of Rochester and was responsible for the distribution of numerous kilograms of cocaine in the Rochester area. Wiggins and 11 others were arrested in February 2010 after a nearly year long investigation conducted by Federal and State authorities. Wiggins is the ninth defendant to plead guilty in the case.

The plea is the culmination of a multi-agency investigation under the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) initiative. Federal and State law enforcement agencies, including Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearm and Explosives, under the direction of Scott Heagney, Special Agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Timothy Kernan, Special Agents of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service under the direction of Jarod Koopman, and officers from the Greater Rochester Area Narcotics Enforcement Team, under the direction of Lt. Joseph Morabito worked in concert with the United States Attorney's Office in the year long investigation

Sentencing is scheduled for November 15, 2011, at 2:15 p.m. EST, in Rochester, N.Y., before Judge Siragusa.

