

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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WESTCHESTER COUNTY MAN CHARGED WITH PRESCRIPTION PILL TRAFFICKING

BUFFALO, N.Y.— U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Charles O'Garro, 27, of Yorktown Heights, N.Y. in Westchester County, was arrested and charged by Criminal Complaint with prescription pill trafficking. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, a \$1,000,000 fine or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael L. McCabe, who is handling the case, stated that the defendant is employed as a technician in a pharmacy in Mohegan Lake, N.Y. According to the Criminal Complaint, the charges stem from a two-month investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration involving prescription pill trafficking between the New York City area and Western New York. On December 19, 2011, agents arrested O'Garro after he attempted to sell a large quantity of prescription medication in a parking lot located on Niagara Falls Boulevard in Amherst. Agents seized over 350 oxycodone, hydrocodone and alprazolam (i.e., Xanax) tablets from O'Garro.

"The abuse of prescription medications such as oxycodone and hydrocodone is a growing problem," said U.S. Attorney Hochul. "Our Office, along with our federal, state and local partners, intend to aggressively prosecute those who traffic in these substances."

DEA Acting Special Agent in Charge Wilbert L. Plummer stated, "Charles O'Garro turned from a pharmacy technician to a criminal with the illegal distribution of prescription medications. DEA works hand in hand with our local, state and federal law enforcement partners to investigate those who are illegally diverting prescription medications to our communities. Prescription drugs are the 2nd most abused drugs throughout the country and we are working hard to increase the awareness of the dangers of abusing them as well as investigating those who are diverting them."

The Criminal Complaint is the result of an investigation by Special Agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Wilbert L. Plummer, Acting Special Agent in Charge, New York Field Division, investigators from the Amherst Police Department, under the direction of Chief John Askey, and the Erie County Sheriff's Department, under the direction of Sheriff Timothy Howard.

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.

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