

**COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**



**THOMAS J. SPOTA
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

August 13, 2013

California to Suffolk drug kingpin scheduled for sentencing Tuesday

Sentencing is scheduled for today in Riverhead for a 36 year old Hollywood, California man guilty of orchestrating a multimillion dollar bicoastal drug empire.

William Wright, 35, of West Hollywood, Calif., pleaded guilty to money laundering in the second degree, conspiracy in the second degree, criminal possession of a controlled substance in the second degree, and other charges for shipping approximately 175 kilos of cocaine from California to Suffolk, using secret compartments in luxury vehicles parked atop truck carriers. District Attorney Spota said Wright also pleaded guilty to transporting cash from the sale of cocaine in Suffolk back to California, specifically \$1.1 million dollars hidden inside a convertible Black Mercedes (see attached image).

Wright admitted to possessing 60 kilos of cocaine shipped to Suffolk, 30 of them inside a hidden trap in a Nissan 350Z.

District Attorney Thomas Spota said Wright was purchasing the cocaine in California for \$20,500 per kilo, "and selling the cocaine in Suffolk County for a price approximately five times that amount, after the drug was cut and prepared for street sales."

Wright, in his plea of guilty to conspiracy in the fourth degree, also admitted to delivering large amounts of high grade marijuana, between 10 and 300 pounds at a time, often from Canada, to Suffolk County.

The court calendar in Judge Mark Cohen's court begins at 9:30 am.

Be advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.



NAME: WRIGHT, William
DOB: 8/18/1977