



County of Rockland Office of Consumer Protection NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Jeweler charged with violations; **County Consumer Affairs Dep't urges caution**

New City, NY – The Rockland County Office of Consumer Protection/Department of Weights and Measures has charged Daniel Baruch, President and Gold Buyers at the Mall, LLC located at 1000 Palisades Center Drive, West Nyack, NY with 46 counts of violating Rockland County Law Chapter 340-12A, class A misdemeanors, for failure to keep a written record of transactions as required by law.

Gold Buyers was also charged with five violations of RC Law Chapter 340-9(b) for buying precious metals from individuals less than 18 years old. These charges stem from transactions dated between January 15, 2009 and May 1, 2009 and more charges may follow. Baruch is due in the Town of Clarkstown Justice Court on April 7, 2010.

The Office of Consumer Protection licenses Precious Metal Dealers and, with the increase in the price of gold over the last couple of years, the department has seen a tremendous increase in license applications.

Licensees are required to submit complete information, including the seller's identification and the description of the goods purchased, to the Rockland County Sheriffs Department's Bureau of Criminal Investigation Unit within 48 hours of the close of the business the day of the transaction.

"The intent of this law is to protect Rockland residents' personal property as well as assist law enforcement in identifying and recovering stolen precious metals, such as gold and silver," said director of the County Office of Consumer Protection, Terry Grosselfinger.

When considering selling their jewelry, consumers should also look for licenses displayed in the place of business along with the daily price for gold. Failure to post their license and prices as required are also violations of the county's law and subject to penalties and possible suspension or revocation of the license.

A public hearing is also being scheduled for the near future for the consideration of suspending or revoking the license currently issued to Gold Buyers. The law requires that a public hearing be held before an independent hearing officer in such matters.

For more information, contact the Office of Consumer Protection at 845-708-7600.

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