

## DETROIT: CELEBRITY JEWELER GETS PRISON , FINE FOR LYING

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Wednesday, June 25, 2008

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**Celebrity** Manhattan **jeweler** Jacob Arabov was sentenced Tuesday in Detroit to 2 1/2 years in **prison** and fined \$50,000 **for lying** to federal agents about the ownership of jewelry seized from a major cocaine trafficker.

Arabov, 43, who pleaded guilty in October, told agents he loaned rather than sold \$5 million worth of jewelry seized from drug suspect Terry Flenory and his associates in the Black Mafia Family drug organization. The ruse was designed to help Flenory **get** back the jewelry. It's unclear why Arabov lied.

Flenory and his brother, Demetrius Flenory, both former Detroiters, are among 63 people indicted since 2005 in the case. The brothers pleaded guilty and are awaiting sentencing.

Arabov was facing a possible **prison** sentence of 37-46 months, but U.S. District Judge Avern Cohn gave him 30 months in light of his charitable deeds, which his lawyers said included work within the Jewish community. Cohn gave him until Jan. 15 to report to **prison** .

"I feel ashamed that I broke the law of this country that's been so good to me and my family," Arabov told Cohn.

Arabov, a Jewish refugee from Uzbekistan, opened Jacob and Co., a prestigious Manhattan jewelry store. Its clients included entertainment and fashion **celebrities** . He is known as Jacob the **Jeweler** .

His plea agreement does not require him to cooperate against other defendants, but he agreed to forfeit \$2 million to the government, which his lawyer, Benjamin Brafman, handed over Tuesday in the form of a check. A spokesman said his business would continue to operate.

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ILLUSTRATION: Photo

CAPTION: Jacob Arabov, 43, has until Jan. 15 to report to **prison** .

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PRINTED ARTICLE

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS; NEWS

Page: 1B

Index Terms: Jacob Arabov; sentence; prison

Record Number: dfp0000595517

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