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## Defendant Found Guilty of Possessing and Selling Illegal Semi-Automatic Pistol



**ALBANY, NY-** District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that JAMES STOKES, 46, of Albany, was found guilty following a jury trial of (1) Count of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree, a Class C Armed Felony, (1) Count of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Third Degree, a Class D Felony, and (1) Count of Criminal Sale of a Firearm in the Third Degree, a Class D Felony, before the Honorable Stephen Herrick in Albany County Court yesterday afternoon.

On April 15, 2013 on Fourth Avenue in the City of Albany, the defendant was observed possessing an unregistered Kel-Tec 9mm semi-automatic pistol. The defendant then entered a residence and sold the pistol for \$300 in cash. The pistol was loaded with 7 rounds of live ammunition.

Ballistics testing on the pistol the defendant possessed was later determined to be the same weapon used in a shooting that occurred at a residence on Central Avenue in the City of Albany. ANGEL RIVERA, 37, of Albany, shot two individuals known to him, causing non-life threatening injuries. RIVERA previously pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Criminal Possession of a Firearm in the Second Degree, a Class C Armed Felony, and (1) Count of Reckless Endangerment in the First Degree, a Class D Felony and was sentenced to 8 years in State Prison before the Honorable Peter A. Lynch in Albany County Court.

STOKES faces up to 15 years in State Prison when sentenced on June 17, 2014 and remains in custody at the Albany County Correctional Facility to await sentencing.

Assistant District Attorney Brett Knowles of the Special Victims Unit prosecuted this case.

For more information please contact Justin Devendorf (518) 275-4785.

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