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Defendant Pleads Guilty in Gambling Ring Case



ALBANY, NY – District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that **CRAIG HAYNER**, 42, of Clifton Park, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Promoting Gambling in the First Degree, a Class E Felony, before the Honorable Joseph C. Teresi in the Supreme Court of Albany County this morning.

HAYNER admitted to engaging in a bookmaking for profit scheme, including a July 2011 incident in Albany County. By entering a plea of guilty, HAYNER agreed to a conditional discharge and the forfeiture of \$250,000 in illegal earnings.

HAYNER is the fourth defendant to plead guilty for his role in an organized gambling ring. On June 25, 2013, co-defendants CHRISTOPHER SOCOLA, JOSEPH CARUCCI and JAMES CERNIGLIA, had each pleaded guilty for their roles in the gambling ring.

CHRISTOPHER SOCOLA, 42, of Clifton Park, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Promoting Gambling in the First Degree, a Class E Felony. SOCOLA admitted to engaging in a bookmaking for profit scheme, including a July 2011 incident in Albany County.

In addition, JOSEPH CARUCCI, 68, of Albany, and JAMES CERNIGLIA, 47, of Clifton Park, each pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Promoting Gambling in the Second degree, a Class A Misdemeanor. CARUCCI and CERNIGLIA pleaded guilty to knowingly advancing or profiting from unlawful gambling activity, including incidents on or around July 7, 2011.

CARUCCI forfeited \$15,000 at the time of the plea. CERNIGLIA, who was a corrections officer at the time of his arrest, will forfeit \$5,000, in addition to assisting in a Public Integrity investigation, and agree to never to return to work at the Albany County Correctional Facility.

CHRISTOPHER SOCOLA, JOSEPH CARUCCI and JAMES CERNIGLIA will be sentenced on August 6, 2013. CRAIG HAYNER will be sentenced on September 24, 2013 pending the completion of the conditions of his guilty plea.

The cases against a fifth co-defendant, TIMOTHY ROBILLARD, remain open at this time.

Assistant District Attorney Steven Sharp and Assistant District Attorney Brett Knowles are handling the prosecution of this case.

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

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All Individuals are Presumed Innocent until Proven Guilty