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## Defendant Pleads Guilty to Drug Charges Mid-Trial

*Pleaded Guilty Following the People's Direct Examination of a Witness*



**ALBANY, NY-** District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that VICTOR WILLIAMS, 25, of Albany, pleaded guilty to an indictment charging him with (2) Counts of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, both Class B Felonies, and (1) Count of Unlawful Possession of Marijuana, a Violation, before the Honorable Stephen Herrick in Albany County Court this morning.

On June 3, 2013 on Washington Avenue in the City of Albany, the defendant was riding in a cab that was pulled over for speeding by an Albany County Sheriff's deputy. While speaking with the driver of the cab, the deputy sheriff smelled marijuana coming from the back of the vehicle and found a small amount of marijuana on the defendant.

After removing the defendant from the vehicle, the deputy sheriff searched the defendant's pockets and found a bag containing 24.9 grams of crack cocaine.

The trial in the matter of the People of the State of New York v. Victor Williams started on Monday, April 7, 2014. The People were presenting their Case in Chief and conducting a Direct Examination of a witness when the defendant pleaded guilty to the entire indictment against him.

"After Assistant District Attorney Mills laid out all of the People's evidence he intended to introduce at trial, the defendant had second thoughts about proceeding. He sought his original plea bargain, to which ADA Mills declined since the trial had already commenced. The defendant threw himself at the mercy of the court by pleading guilty to all the charges in the indictment," commented District Attorney Soares.

WILLIAMS faces up to 12 years in State Prison when sentenced on May 8, 2014.

Assistant District Attorney Jasper Mills of the Street Crimes Unit is handling the prosecution of this case.

For more information please contact Cecilia Walsh (518) 275-4710.

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