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Repeat Drunk Driver Pleads Guilty to Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated

Defendant Registered .26% BAC while in Police Custody



ALBANY, NY- District Attorney P. David Soares announced that **WALTER RUSSELL**, 55, of Cohoes, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated, a Class D Felony,

and (1) Count of Aggravated Unlicensed Operator in the First Degree, a Class E Felony, before the Honorable Peter A. Lynch in Albany County Court this morning.

On December 6, 2013 on Central Avenue in the City of Cohoes, officers from the Cohoes Police Department observed the defendant's vehicle swerving to the extreme right and left of the roadway and almost colliding with several parked vehicles. Upon initiating a traffic stop, the defendant failed multiple field sobriety tests and registered a BAC of .26% while in custody.

RUSSELL will be sentenced on March 3, 2014 and faces 1 2/3 to 5 years in State Prison on the Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated charge, as well as a concurrent sentence of 1 to 3 years in State Prison on the Aggravated Unlicensed Operator charge.

The defendant has two previous felony convictions of Driving While Intoxicated that occurred within the last ten years.

Additionally, the defendant will be required to install an Ignition Interlock Device in any vehicle he owns for 3 years following his release and faces a minimum of one year of license revocation from the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles.

Assistant District Attorney David Szalda of the Vehicular Crimes Unit is handling the prosecution of this case.

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

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