



Office of the District Attorney
P. David Soares
6 Lodge Street
Albany, New York 12207
(518) 487-5460
(518) 487-5093 FAX

CONTACT: CECILIA WALSH (518) 275-4710
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2013

Two Defendants Receive State Prison for Possession of Illegal Handguns



Joel Hart



Jamal Brown

ALBANY, NY - District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that JOEL HART, 29, of Schenectady and JAMAL BROWN, 36, of Albany, have each been sentenced to state prison for possessing illegal firearms in the City of Albany before the Honorable Stephen W. Herrick in Albany County Court this morning.

JOEL HART was sentenced to 5 years in State Prison, to be followed by 5 years of Post Release Supervision. JAMAL BROWN was sentenced to 3 ½ years in State Prison, to be followed by 5 years of Post Release Supervision.

On October 9, 2013, HART pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Attempted Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree, a Class D Felony, and BROWN pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree, a Class C Felony.

On September 6, 2013 members of the Albany Police Department responded to a report of a fight at the Elbow Room on Delaware Avenue in the City of Albany. Upon arrival, officers were informed that a male on the scene was in possession of a handgun.

Officers then found JOEL HART sitting in his vehicle and observed a Sig Sauer 9mm handgun that was loaded with 9 rounds of live ammunition in plain view on the floor by the driver side seat.

Additionally, on August 8, 2013 on South Pearl Street in the City of Albany, members of the Albany Police Department executed a search warrant on JAMAL BROWN's residence. During the search, BROWN was found to be in possession of a Nef Co.22 caliber revolver loaded with 9 live rounds of ammunition. Police also uncovered 133 bags of heroin that were determined to be in the defendant's possession.

“Removing illegal handguns from the community and ensuring offenders are held accountable is a top priority for law enforcement in Albany County. This is accomplished through regular collaboration with our partners in law enforcement through all stages of prosecution leading to sentencing. I want to recognize the Albany Police Department and Assistant District Attorney Haas for removing two dangerous illegal handguns off the streets of Albany and sending a message to those who might want possess an illegal handgun that prosecution will be swift and justice will be served,” commented District Attorney Soares.

Assistant District Attorney Kurt Haas of the Street Crimes Unit oversaw the prosecution of both of these cases.

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

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