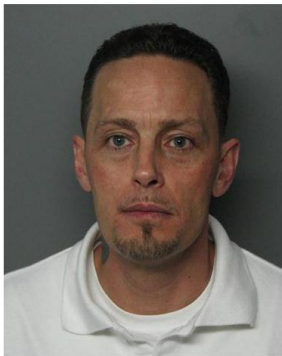




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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MAY 28, 2015

## 2 Plead Guilty in Hate Crime Ring, 4 Others Arraigned



JOHN WATERSON



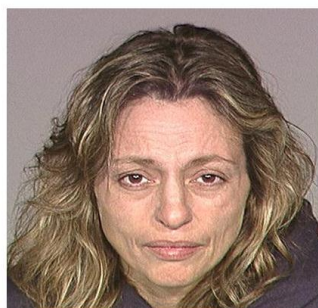
HENRY HICKS



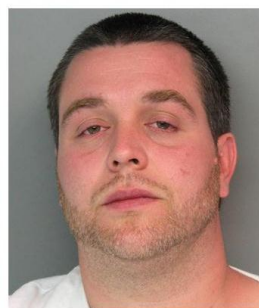
FRANK CHRYSLER



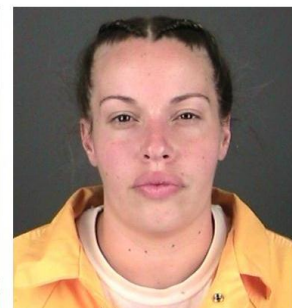
JOHN RISTO



SUSAN BARR



BRIAN BARR



JESSICA PALADISO

**ALBANY, NY-** District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that two men have pleaded guilty to Grand Larceny and Conspiracy charges in relation to a ring of hate crimes. Four others in the same ring facing similar charges have been arraigned in Albany County Court.

On May 14, 2015, HENRY HICKS, 58, of Albany, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree as a Hate Crime, a Class C Felony and (1) Count of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree as a Hate Crime, a Class D Felony, before the Honorable Judge Roger McDonough in Albany County Court.

HICKS faces up to 9-18 in State Prison years when he is sentenced on July 24, 2015.

On April 1, 2015, JOHN WATERSON, 37, of Albany, pleaded guilty to (1) County of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a Class D Felony, and (1) Count of Conspiracy in the Fifth Degree, a Class A Misdemeanor, before the Honorable Judge Stephen Herrick in Albany County Court.

WATERSON faces up to 3 ½ to 7 years in State Prison when he is sentenced on June 10, 2015.

On separate dates between August 2014 and October 2014, HICKS and WATERSON, while acting personally and in concert with others, did overcharge numerous people more than \$3,000.00 USD each under false pretenses of performing work and did select the people against whom the offense was committed due to their ages, regardless of whether the beliefs or perceptions were correct.

On April 20, 2015, FRANK CHRYSLER, 49, of Watervliet, was arraigned in Albany County Court before the Honorable Judge Roger McDonough. CHRYSLER was arraigned on (4) Counts of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree as a Hate Crime, all Class C Felonies, (4) Counts of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, all Class D Felonies, (1) Count of Petit Larceny as Hate Crime, (1) Count of Petit Larceny, a Class A Misdemeanor, (1) Count of Conspiracy in the Fifth Degree as a Hate Crime, a Class E Felony, (1) Count of Conspiracy in the Fifth Degree, a Class A Misdemeanor, and (1) Count of Scheme to Defraud in the First Degree, a Class E Felony.

On April 29, 2015, JOHN RISTO, 60, was arraigned in Albany County Court before the Honorable Judge Roger McDonough. RISTO was arraigned on (1) Counts of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree as a Hate Crime, a Class C Felony, (1) Counts of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a Class D Felony, (1) Counts of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree as a Hate Crime, a Class D Felony, (1) Counts of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a Class E Felony, Count of Conspiracy in the Fifth Degree as a Hate Crime, a Class E Felony, (1) Count of Conspiracy in the Fifth Degree, a Class A Misdemeanor, and (1) Count of Scheme to Defraud in the First Degree, a Class E Felony.

On May 20, 2015, JESSICA PARADISO, 27, of Schenectady, was arraigned in Albany County Court before the Honorable Judge Roger McDonough. PARADISO was arraigned on (2) Counts of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree as a Hate Crime, all Class C Felonies, (2) Counts of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, all Class D Felonies, (2) Counts of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree as a Hate Crime, all Class D Felonies, (2) Counts of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, all Class E Felonies, (2) Counts of Burglary in the Second Degree as a Hate Crime, all Class B Violent Felonies, (2) Counts of Burglary in the Second Degree, all Class C Violent Felonies, (1) Count of Petit Larceny as a Hate Crime, (1) Count of Petit Larceny, a Class A Misdemeanor, (1) Count of Conspiracy in the Fifth Degree as a Hate Crime, a Class E Felony, (1) Count of

Conspiracy in the Fifth Degree, a Class A Misdemeanor, and (1) Count of Scheme to Defraud in the First Degree, a Class E Felony.

On May 22, 2015, SUSAN BARR, 57, of Altamont, was arraigned in Albany County Court before the Honorable Judge Roger McDonough. BARR was arraigned on (1) Counts of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree as a Hate Crime, a Class C Felony, (1) Count of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a Class D Felony, (1) Count of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree as a Hate Crime, a Class D Felony, (1) Count of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a Class E Felony, (1) Count of Petit Larceny as a Hate Crime, (1) Count of Petit Larceny, a Class A Misdemeanor, (1) Count of Conspiracy in the Fifth Degree as a Hate Crime, a Class E Felony, (1) Count of Conspiracy in the Fifth Degree, a Class A Misdemeanor, and (1) Count of Scheme to Defraud in the First Degree, a Class E Felony.

Brian Barr has also been charged in the conspiracy but has yet to be arraigned.

Assistant District Attorney Jessica Blain-Lewis of the Financial Crimes Bureau and Assistant District Attorney Daniel Lynch Bureau Chief of the Financial Crimes Unit are prosecuting these cases.

For more information, please contact the Albany County District Attorney's Office (518) 487-5460.

*All Individuals Are Presumed Innocent Until Proven Guilty*  
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