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Case Resolutions Announced in Evidence Tampering Case



TAIJA LEWIS



LOUDASHA GAUSE

ALBANY, NY - District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that the case involving evidence tampering and illegal weapons possession in the City of Albany has resulted in multiple guilty plea convictions.

TAIJA LEWIS, 28, of Albany, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree, a Class C Armed Violent Felony, before the Honorable Roger D. McDonough in Albany County Court yesterday. LEWIS faces (5) years in State Prison, to be followed by (5) years of Post-Release Supervision, when sentenced on April 17, 2020.

On July 16, 2019, at approximately 4:40 A.M., officers from the Albany Police Department were

securing a vehicle parked inside of Albany Medical Center Hospital's parking garage in reference to an ongoing shooting investigation. LEWIS, and co-defendant OUDASHA GAUSE, drove up alongside the vehicle that was being held as evidence in a separate vehicle and exited.

The pair proceeded to open the trunk of the other vehicle using a spare key that they had and began to actively struggle with officers. During the incident, a bag was removed from the vehicle's trunk and placed into the awaiting car. The two women were taken into custody by the officers and the other car, which was occupied by four males, sped off towards the parking garage's exit where responding officers intercepted it. Near the exit of the garage the bag was tossed from the car and three loaded handguns were recovered. One of the men fled on foot and was not identified, and the remaining three male occupants of the vehicle were taken into custody and charged.

GAUSE, 29, of Albany, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Attempted Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree, a Class C Armed Violent Felony, before the Honorable Roger D. McDonough in Albany County Court on November 26, 2019. GAUSE was sentenced to (4) years in State Prison, to be followed by (3) years of Post-Release Supervision, on January 24, 2020.

Two of the three men charged in the incident have pleaded guilty:

NYSEIN TOLBERT, 35, of Albany, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Conspiracy in the Fifth Degree, a Class A Misdemeanor, before the Honorable Roger D. McDonough in Albany County Court on November 14, 2019. TOLBERT was sentenced to (3) years of Probation on January 24, 2020.

MICHAEL CARTER, 26, of Albany, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Conspiracy in the Fifth Degree, a Class A Misdemeanor, before the Honorable Roger D. McDonough in Albany County Court on November 14, 2019. CARTER faces up to (1) year in custody when sentenced at a future date to be scheduled by the Court.

Charges of (1) Count of Attempted Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree, a Class D Felony, (1) Count of Conspiracy in the Fourth Degree, a Class E Felony, and (1) Count of Tampering with Physical Evidence, a Class E Felony, remain open and pending against MARCUS MANSFIELD, 26, of Albany, and a trial date has been scheduled by the Court for March 9, 2020.

Assistant District Attorney Michael Shanley of the Major Offense Unit is handling the prosecution of this case.

For more information please contact Cecilia Walsh at (518) 275-4710 or cecilia.walsh@albanycountyny.gov.

*All charged individuals are presumed innocent
until proven guilty.*

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