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Guilty Plea in Funeral Home Fraud Case



ALBANY, NY – District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that MARK S. FIET, 64, of Clifton Park, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a Class D Felony, and (1) Count of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, a Class E Felony, before the Honorable Judge Stephen W. Herrick in Albany County Court this morning.

FIET faces up to 1 to 3 years in State Prison, and will be ordered to pay between \$50,000 to \$65,000 in restitution, when sentenced on February 2, 2016.

In 2013, an independent forensic account audit for the Parker Brothers Memorial Funeral Home in Watervliet, NY, uncovered fraudulent entries in the business record books during a period of time between 2011 and 2013.

An investigation led by the New York State Police uncovered that during those dates, FIET, with the assistance of co-defendant SAMUEL F. CATALANO, JR., did allegedly steal in excess of \$3000 from the proceeds of the funeral home and proceed to make false entries in the business records of the establishment.

At the time of the alleged theft, FIET was working as the funeral home director and office manager, and CATALANO JR. was a manager and director within the business.

CATALANO JR., 58, was previously arraigned on (1) Count of Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a Class C Felony, (1) Count of Conspiracy in the Fourth Degree, and (1) Count of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, a Class E Felony.

The case against CATALANO JR. remains open and pending.

Financial Crimes Unit Bureau Chief Daniel Lynch is prosecuting this case.

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

All parties are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty and convicted

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