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Witness Intimidation Facebook Post Leads to State Prison



ALBANY, NY – District Attorney P. David Soares today announced that RAHKIEM E. JOHNSON, 19, of Albany, was sentenced today for witness intimidation and drug charges before Honorable Peter A. Lynch in Albany County Court this morning.

JOHNSON was sentenced to 3 years in State Prison, to be followed by 2 years of Post-Release Supervision, for a drug sale conviction, and 1 to 3 years in State Prison for an intimidating a witness conviction, to be served concurrently.

On April 24, 2014, JOHNSON, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Intimidating a Victim or Witness in the Third Degree, a Class E Felony, and (1) Count of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, a Class B Felony.

On April 12, 2013, JOHNSON posted a “wanted poster” on Facebook in regard to a witness that was scheduled to testify in a separate criminal court case. The poster included a photograph of the witness and offered a reward of \$1,000. JOHNSON admitted to law enforcement that he created the Facebook post, indicating that he wanted to get the attention of the witness.

Additionally, on March 18, 2014, while in the area of Ontario Street and Morris Street in the City of Albany, JOHNSON did sell a quantity of crack cocaine in exchange for US Currency. The conviction on this charge also resolves other drug sales attributed to this defendant.

Assistant District Attorney Linda Griggs of the Public Integrity Unit and Jasper Mills of the Street Crimes Unit prosecuted these cases.

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

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