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Leandra's Law Violation Leads to State Prison for Albany Man



ALBANY, NY- District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that JOSEPH BRENNAN, 23, of Albany, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Reckless Endangerment in the First Degree, a Class

D Felony and (1) Count of Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated, Child in Vehicle; a Class E Felony, before the Honorable Andrew Ceresia in the Supreme Court of Albany County this morning.

On March 16, 2013 on Western Avenue in the Town of Guilderland, BRENNAN was observed operating a motor vehicle by a member of the Guilderland Police Department weaving in and out of the lane. When the officer attempted to initiate a traffic stop, BRENNAN did not pull over and led the officer on a high speed pursuit through Crossgates Mall and Interstate 87 North. During the pursuit multiple motorists were forced to pull over because of the defendant's erratic driving.

When BRENNAN exited Interstate 87 North at the Central Avenue exit, he drove up onto a raised median divider. BRENNAN then collided into another vehicle, causing the driver to crash into a building and sustained physical injuries. The defendant then took the two children under the age of 4 from the vehicle, and fled on foot in the area of Northway Mall, where he was apprehended by police.

BRENNAN failed multiple field sobriety tests and was found to be in possession of 40 grams of marijuana. The defendant underwent a Drug Influence Evaluation and was found to be under the influence of cannabis.

BRENNAN faces 2 to 4 years in State Prison and a concurrent State Prison term of 1 to 3 years when sentenced on August 16, 2013.

Assistant District Attorney Matthew Peluso of the Vehicular Crimes Unit is handling the prosecution of this case.

For more information please contact Justin Devendorf (518) 275-4785.

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