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State Prison Inmate Sentenced for Burglary of Albany Church

DNA Databank Hit Linked the Defendant to Crime



ALBANY, NY- District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that RICARDO ZAYAS-TORRES, 34, was sentenced to 1 1/3 to 4 years in State Prison before the Honorable Peter A. Lynch in Albany County Court this morning.

On May 20, 2013, ZAYAS-TORRES pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Burglary in the Third Degree, a Class D Felony.

Between May 29, 2011 and May 31, 2011 on Hopewell Street in the City of Albany, ZAYAS-TORRES did unlawfully enter and remain inside the Parish of Mater Christi church. While inside, the defendant did crack open a safe containing donations from a Sunday mass and did steal \$1,100 from inside.

An investigation by the Albany Police Department found blood on the safe, which when run through the New York State DNA Database linked the defendant to the scene of the crime.

This abovementioned sentence will run consecutive to the state prison term the defendant received after being found guilty after a jury trial on October 19, 2012 of (3) Counts of Burglary in the Second Degree, all Class C Felonies, as well as (1) Count of Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third Degree, a Class D Felony, before the Honorable Stephen Herrick in Albany County Court.

On December 14, 2012, ZAYAS-TORRES was sentenced to a determinate state prison term of 12 years for the burglary conviction and a concurrent state prison term of 2 to 6 years for the criminal possession of stolen property conviction before the Honorable Stephen Herrick in Albany County Court.

ZAYAS-TORRES will also have to pay restitution in the amount of \$800 for damage to the safe as well as \$1,100 that was stolen from the church.

“The actions of Mr. Zayas-Torres are deplorable and will never be tolerated. With this consecutive state prison sentence added on to the defendant’s previous conviction of multiple counts of burglary, he will have a very long time to think about his actions,” commented District Attorney Soares.

Assistant District Attorney Matthew Hauf of the Major Offense Bureau handled the prosecution of this case.

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

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