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State Prison for Repeat Drunk Driver



ALBANY, NY –District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that **CRAIG BECKER**, 53, of Albany, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Driving While Intoxicated, Per Se, a Class E Felony,

and (1) Count of Driving While Intoxicated, also as a Class E Felony, before the Honorable Peter A. Lynch in Albany County Court yesterday afternoon.

On November 10, 2012, BECKER was observed by officers of the Watervliet Police Department operating a motor vehicle in which the muffler was disconnected from the body of the vehicle, causing sparks to hit the road. The right brake light of BECKER's car was also broken.

Upon stopping the vehicle, officers observed BECKER showing physical signs of intoxication and BECKER admitted to drinking alcoholic beverages at a local tavern. BECKER failed several field sobriety tests and registered a BAC of .10% approximately 50 minutes after the stop.

The defendant's license was revoked 3 separate times for previous DWI convictions and was still revoked at the time of this arrest.

While BECKER's November DWI case was pending, he was again arrested for felony DWI on December 9, 2012 in the City of Cohoes. The Cohoes Police Department received a complaint regarding BECKER driving a motor vehicle while intoxicated. Officers spotted the motor vehicle matching the description and pulled it over. When officers approached the vehicle, BECKER displayed physical signs of intoxication and stated that he would not be able to pass the field sobriety tests because he was drunk.

BECKER failed several field sobriety tests and refused to submit to a chemical test at the station.

BECKER will be sentenced on March 22, 2013. DECKER faces 1 1/3 to 4 years in State Prison for the charge of Driving While Intoxicated, Per Se on the November 10, 2012 arrest. DECKER also faces a \$1,000 fine, license revocation for 18 months and 3 years of Conditional Discharge upon his release.

Additionally, BECKER faces a concurrent 1 1/3 to 4 years in State Prison for the charge of Driving While Intoxicated, on the December 9, 2012 arrest, as well as a \$1,000 fine, license revocation for 18 months and 3 years of Conditional Discharge upon his release.

"Mr. Becker will lose his freedom for the next several years because of his decision to habitually drive a vehicle while intoxicated. That will never be tolerated in Albany County and I hope this outcome serves as a reminder to those in the community that my office will hold you accountable for your actions," commented DA Soares.

Assistant District Attorney and Bureau Chief of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau Mary Tanner-Richter prosecuted this case.

For more information please contact Cecilia Logue.

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