



Office of the District Attorney

P. David Soares

6 Lodge Street

Albany, New York 12207

(518) 487-5460

(518) 487-5093 FAX

CONTACT: JUSTIN DEVENDORF (518) 275-4785

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Vehicular Crimes Unit News: Multiple Defendants Plead Guilty to Driving While Intoxicated



ALBANY, NY – District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that multiple defendants have pleaded guilty for operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol.

On August 29, 2013, **GHIRMAY GHIDEI** pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Driving While Intoxicated, a Class E Felony, before the Honorable Peter A. Lynch in Albany County Court.

On June 2, 2013 on Fourth Avenue in the City of Albany, officers observed GHIDEI operating a motor vehicle violating multiple vehicle and traffic laws. When officers attempted to initiate a traffic stop, the defendant refused and lead officers on a pursuit.

During the pursuit, GHIDEI drove through several red lights and nearly collided with oncoming traffic, causing other motorists to take evasive action to avoid a collision. The defendant abandoned his vehicle and fled but was apprehended by officers. GHIDEI refused to submit to any field sobriety tests or BAC tests.

GHIDEI faces 1 to 3 years in State Prison, the installation of an Ignition Interlock Device for 3 years following his release, a \$1,000 fine and license revocation for 1 year when sentenced on September 26, 2013.

On August 26, 2013, **PETER GEORGE** pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Driving While Intoxicated, a Class E Felony, before the Honorable Peter A. Lynch in Albany County Court.

On April 26, 2013 on New Scotland Road, the defendant approached a checkpoint overseen by the Albany County Sheriff's Office. When GEORGE approached the checkpoint, the deputies observed a small bag of marijuana in the center console and detected a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from the defendant, in addition to several other physical signs of intoxication.

When officers asked the defendant to exit the vehicle, he failed multiple field sobriety tests and registered a BAC of .11% while in police custody.

GEORGE faces up to 1 year in the Albany County Correctional Facility, the installation of an Ignition Interlock Device for 3 years following his release, a \$1,000 fine and license revocation for 1 year when sentenced on October 7, 2013.

On August 26, 2013, **MICHAEL SCOVILLE**, 33, of Albany, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Driving While Intoxicated, a Class E Felony, before the Honorable Peter A. Lynch in Albany County Court.

On June 15, 2013 on Consaul Road in the Town of Colonie, SCOVILLE was operating a motor vehicle when he was stopped by officers for failing to stop at a red light. When officers attempted to initiate the traffic stop, SCOVILLE did not stop immediately and continued driving for several blocks.

Once the vehicle stopped, the defendant exited the vehicle and proceeded to walk away as officers attempted to talk to him. When officers were able to interact with SCOVILLE, he exhibited several physical signs of intoxication. The defendant refused to submit to any field sobriety tests and resisted arrest.

SCOVILLE faces a sentence in the range of no less than 6 months in the Albany County Correctional Facility and 5 years of Felony Probation to no more than 1 to 3 years in State Prison, a \$1,000 fine, the installation of an Ignition Interlock Device and license revocation for 1 year when sentenced on October 7, 2013.

On August 23, 2013, **ADAM KELLY**, 32, of Ballston Lake, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated, a Class E Felony, before the Honorable Peter A. Lynch in Albany County Court.

On March 3, 2013 on Interstate 787, the defendant was operating a motor vehicle and nearly sideswiped a parked police vehicle. Upon the initiation of a traffic stop, the officer observed KELLY exhibiting several physical signs of intoxication which included slurred speech and emanating a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage. The defendant failed multiple field sobriety tests and registered a BAC of .19% while in police custody.

KELLY faces up to 6 months in the Albany County Correctional Facility, 5 years of Felony Probation, the installation of an Ignition Interlock Device for 5 years following his release, a \$1,000 fine and license revocation for 1 year when sentenced on October 4, 2013.

On August 27, 2013, **MARCOS RUFFINO** pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Driving While Intoxicated, a Class E Felony, before the Honorable Peter A. Lynch in Albany County Court.

On April 7, 2013 on Western Avenue in the City of Albany, the defendant was operating a motor vehicle and was observed by officers drifting out of the right lane into the shoulder lane. Upon the initiation of a traffic stop, officers observed the defendant exhibiting several physical signs of intoxication which were slurred speech, glassy eyes and the strong odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from the RUFFINO's breath.

RUFFINO failed multiple field sobriety tests and registered a BAC of .18% while in police custody.

RUFFINO faces 5 years of Felony Probation, the installation of an Ignition Interlock Device for 5 years, a \$1,000 fine and license revocation for 1 year when sentenced on October 8, 2013.

On August 29, 2013, **BRIAN SHAUGHNESSY** pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Driving While Intoxicated, a Class E Felony, before the Honorable Stephen Herrick in Albany County Court.

On March 1, 2013 on Elsmere Avenue in the Town of Bethlehem, officers received a call about the defendant driving erratically and crossing the center line multiple times. After learning of the defendant's location, officers initiated a traffic stop and observed the defendant exhibiting multiple signs of intoxication.

SHAUGHNESSY failed multiple field sobriety tests and registered a BAC of .13% while in police custody.

SHAUGHNESSY faces 30 days of community service and 5 years of Felony Probation, which includes participation in Albany County Drug Court, the installation of an Ignition Interlock Device for 5 years, a \$1,000 fine and license revocation for 1 year when sentenced on October 18, 2013.

“I hope these felony convictions will serve as a reminder to all those who drive on roads in Albany County that operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or any other illicit substance will never be tolerated. Innocent motorists should not be put in danger due to the reckless decisions’ of intoxicated drivers. I want to thank ADA Peluso for holding these defendants accountable for their actions,” commented District Attorney Soares.

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

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

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