



Office of the District Attorney

P. David Soares

6 Lodge Street

Albany, New York 12207

(518) 487-5460

(518) 487-5093 FAX

CONTACT: CECILIA LOGUE, 518 275-4710

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2013

Delmar Man Pleads Guilty for Hit and Run Fatality



ALBANY, NY – District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that IAN ECKARDT-RIGBERG, 20, of Delmar, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Manslaughter in the Second Degree, a Class C Felony and (1) Count of Leaving the Scene of an Incident Without Reporting, a Class D Felony, before the Honorable Thomas Breslin in Albany County Court this morning.

On February 25, 2012, at approximately 7:30pm, ECKARDT-RIGBERG was operating a motor vehicle above the posted speed limit on Interstate 90 in the City of Albany, when he failed to stop his motor vehicle after being directed to do so by a marked police car.

ECKARDT-RIGBERG continued traveling at a high rate of speed and ran a red light while getting off of Interstate 90 on Henry Johnson Blvd, striking Rozell Whitehead with his vehicle, causing his death. ECKARDT-RIGBERG fled the scene and failed to report the incident. ECKARDT-RIGBERG then drove to the Bethlehem Police Department where he falsely reported being involved in various property damage accidents in the Town of Bethlehem.

ECKARDT-RIGBERG was driving a motor vehicle in violation of restrictions on his license at the time.

ECKARDT-RIGBERG faces 3 1/3 to 10 years in State Prison in addition to a concurrent State Prison term of 2 to 6 years when sentenced on March 28, 2013.

Bureau Chief of the Vehicular Crimes Unit Assistant District Attorney Mary Tanner-Richter is prosecuting this case.

For more information, please contact Cecilia Logue.

###