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Guilty Plea for Repeat Impaired Driver who Drove Wrong Way through UAlbany



ALBANY, NY- District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that NICHOLAS HELTON, 34, of Albany, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Driving While Ability Impaired by Drugs, a Class D Felony, before the Honorable Peter A. Lynch in Albany County Court this morning.

On June 30, 2018, at approximately 10:27 P.M. HELTON was observed driving northbound from the Indian/Dutch Roadway on the UAlbany campus passed two “Do Not Enter” signs, then onto a sidewalk connecting to Indian Drive. HELTON was pulled over by UAlbany Police and

during the stop he admitted to smoking marijuana earlier that day. HELTON displayed physical signs of impairment and failed field sobriety tests. HELTON was also found to be in possession of 2 grams of marijuana at the time of operation. At the time of the incident HELTON was driving without an Interlock Interlock Device, despite knowing that his license was revoked as a result from a May 2018 felony level DWI conviction for which he was serving an active term of Probation.

HELTON faces 1 1/3 to 4 years in State Prison when sentenced on August 17, 2018. HELTON will additionally be sentenced to a concurrent term for a Violation of Probation and also faces a concurrent sentence for driving without an Interlock Device. HELTON also faces \$2,000 in fines and surcharges, a driver's license revocation for a minimum of 18 months subject to Department of Motor Vehicles guidelines, and mandatory installation of an Ignition Interlock Device for 3 years upon release from custody.

Vehicular Crimes Unit Bureau Chief Mary Tanner-Richter is prosecuting this case.

For more information please contact Cecilia Walsh (518) 275-4710 or cecilia.walsh@albanycountyny.gov.

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