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Guilty Pleas and Jail Time for 3 Drunk Drivers

ALBANY, NY – District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that BARTOLOMEO LITTLE, 53, of Altamont, NY pleaded guilty to (2) Counts of DWI, Class “E” Felonies, on June 15, 2012 before the Honorable Dan Lamont in Albany County Court.

On November 6, 2011, LITTLE was found passed out in his pickup on the side of a road. Officers interviewed LITTLE, who displayed slurred speech, glassy eyes, impaired motor coordination, and a strong alcoholic odor on his breath. He failed standardized field sobriety tests and refused to submit to a chemical test.

On May 5, 2012, while the above case was still pending, LITTLE lost control of his vehicle and drove off the road. He then sharply corrected himself and returned to the road. When police attempted to pull him over, he continued driving for a quarter of a mile before stopping. He then lit a cigarette and stumbled out of his pickup. He had glassy eyes, had extremely slurred speech, and smelled of alcohol. He failed standardized field sobriety tests again and was taken into custody where he refused to submit to a chemical test.

LITTLE faces 1 to 3 years in prison on each conviction, to run concurrent, as well as, forfeiture of his truck, \$2,000 in fines, and license revocation when sentenced on August 9, 2012. These were his 4th and 5th alcohol-related convictions.

The District Attorney also announced that JUAN PENA, 52, of Mechanicville, NY pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Aggravated DWI, a Class “E” Felony on June 15, 2012 before the Honorable Dan Lamont in Albany County Court.

On November 28, 2011, PENA was stopped for several traffic violations. He displayed glassy eyes, slurred speech, impaired coordination, and had the odor of alcohol on his breath. PENA failed field sobriety tests and had a blood alcohol level of .25. PENA faces 1 year in Albany County Jail when sentenced on July 26, 2012. This was his third alcohol-related conviction.

The District Attorney also announced that WILLIAM TOOHEY, 33, of Clifton Park, NY was sentenced to 6 months in Albany County Jail and 5 years of probation before the Honorable Dan Lamont in Albany County Court.

On April 10, 2012 TOOHEY pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Attempted Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Third Degree, a Class "D" Felony and (1) Count of Aggravated DWI, a Class "E" Felony.

On January 2, 2012, at approximately 2:59 pm, TOOHEY was speeding and zigzagging through traffic on northbound I-87. When pulled over, he displayed the odor of alcohol and had glassy eyes. TOOHEY failed 3 standardize field sobriety tests and refused to take a breath test. A retractable baton was found under the seat of his car.

"At any time our families are traveling on our roads, there are parents allowing their kids to take the family car out for the first time, and teens are heading out to proms and graduation parties," said DA David Soares. "Our roads become safer places to travel when irresponsible drivers are taken off the road. Dispositions like these offer a measure of assurance that people will get home safely."

Vehicular Crimes Bureau Chief Mary Tanner-Richter handled the prosecution of these cases.

For more information, please contact Cecilia Logue.

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