



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: TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2013

Guilty Pleas in Gambling Ring Cases



ALBANY, NY – District Attorney P. David Soares today announced that three men have pleaded guilty to gambling charges this morning before Judge Joseph C. Teresi in Albany County Court.

CHRISTOPHER SOCOLA, 42, of Clifton Park, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Promoting Gambling in the First Degree, a Class E Felony, in exchange for full cooperation in future criminal proceedings.

SOCOLA pleaded guilty to engaging in a bookmaking for profit scheme, including a July 2011 incident in Albany County.

In addition, JOSEPH CARUCCI, 68, of Albany, and JAMES CERNIGLIA, 47, of Clifton Park, each pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Promoting Gambling in the Second degree, a Class A Misdemeanor, in exchange for full cooperation in future criminal proceedings. CARUCCI and

CERNIGLIA pleaded guilty to knowingly advancing or profiting from unlawful gambling activity, including incidents on or around July 7, 2011.

CARUCCI forfeited \$15,000 at the plea this morning.

CERNIGLIA, who was a corrections officer at the time of his arrest, will forfeit \$5,000, in addition to assisting in a Public Integrity investigation, and agree to never to return to work at the Albany County Correctional Facility.

These defendants agreed to a conditional discharge, requiring that as condition of the guilty pleas, all of these defendants must cooperate throughout the remainder of the investigation. A sentencing date of August 6, 2013 has been scheduled pending the completion of those conditions. Should these defendants not comply with the plea conditions their pleas of guilt stand and sentencing will be at the discretion of the court.

“The plea this morning reflects the strength of the evidence gathered in this international gambling case. As part of this resolution, these defendants have agreed to cooperate as we prosecute the remaining local defendants,” said DA David Soares.

The cases against CRAIG HAYNER and TIMOTHY ROBILLARD remain open at this time.

Assistant District Attorney’s Brett Knowles and Steven Sharp are handling the prosecution of this case.

For more information, please contact Cecilia Logue at (518) 275-4710.

###

All parties are presumed innocent until proven guilty