



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
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Parolee Pleads Guilty to Gun Possession



ALBANY, NY – District Attorney P. David Soares announced that EL-SHAMAR VANDERHORST, 22, of Albany, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Attempted Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree, a Class D Violent Felony in County Court today before Honorable Judge Thomas Breslin in Albany County Court.

VANDERHORST will be sentenced to 5 years determinate in state prison to be followed by 5 years of post-release supervision.

On June 30, 2012 the Albany Police Department were responding to a report of shots fired when they observed VANDERHORST speeding away from the area on his bicycle. VANDERHORST led police on a brief chase which resulted in the defendant falling from his bicycle and then crawling on the ground near vehicles that were parked on State Street in the City of Albany. Once VANDERHORST was detained police located a .22 caliber loaded firearm, a bag of (11) .22 caliber bullet rounds, a cell phone, and a bus pass located nearby. VANDERHORST did admit to police that these items did belong to him and were under his possession.

VANDERHORST was on Parole at the time of the incident. VANDERHORST remains in custody and will be sentenced on September 6, 2012.

“Gun violence is a plague on our communities and I applaud the work of the Albany Police Department to getting one more illegal firearm off of the streets,” said DA David Soares. “Since the inception of the ENOUGH Program over 450 firearms have been traded in and removed from our communities. If you or anyone you know wants to turn in an illegal firearm, please reach out to the ENOUGH Program at 209-3557.”

Assistant District Attorney Daniel Lynch from the Street Crimes Bureau handled the prosecution of the case.

For more information, please contact Cecilia Logue.

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