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Property Thief Found Guilty of Trying to Steal Property Valued at over One Million Dollars



ALBANY, NY- District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that ZACHARIA LATNIE, 22, of Schenectady, was found guilty after a jury trial of (2) Counts of Attempted Grand Larceny in the First Degree, both Class C Felonies, (2) Counts of Burglary in the Third Degree, and (3) Counts of Tampering with Public Records in the First Degree, all Class D Felonies, (3) Counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, (3) Counts of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, and (1) Count of Conspiracy in the Fourth Degree, all Class E Felonies, and (1) Count of Possession of Burglar's Tools, a Class A Misdemeanor, before the Honorable Peter A. Lynch in Albany County Court this afternoon.

On August 15, 2014, and again on November 28, 2014, while located at 1893 Central Avenue in the Town of Colonie, LATNIE illegally entered and later attempted to illegally sell commercial residential property using fraudulent documents. Specifically, LATNIE posted a piece of paper purporting to be a contract on the front door of a property that was under foreclosure litigation. LATNIE was not a party in the legal litigation process. The property was valued at over \$1,000,000. The jury considered evidence at trial and found that LATNIE filed multiple false records, including a false deed on the property, and then illegally entered the property. Upon arrest, LATNIE was found to be in possession of fraudulent government documents, burglar's tools, and paperwork referencing the "Sovereign Citizen" movement.

LATNIE potentially faces up to 30 years in State Prison when sentenced on March 16, 2017.

Assistant District Attorneys Brittany Grome and Shadi Masri prosecuted this case.

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