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Repeat Drug Court Violations Lead to State Prison Sentence



ALBANY, NY - District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that TROY LABELLE, 24, of Malta, NY, was sentenced to 1 to 3 years in State Prison before the Honorable Gerald W. Connolly in Albany County Drug Court yesterday morning.

On March 9, 2016, at approximately 10:49 P.M., while on I-90, in the Town of Guilderland,

LABELLE did operate a motor vehicle while impaired by marijuana and heroin and while his privilege of obtaining a license had been suspended or revoked. LABELLE was seen by New York State Police driving erratically at toll plaza to I-90 in the Town of Guilderland. At the time of the stop, LABELLE had physical signs of impairment, failed field sobriety tests, and had approximately 1.6 grams of heroin in his car. LABELLE admitted to smoking marijuana earlier and later admitted that the heroin found in the vehicle was his. A blood test confirmed the presence of marijuana and morphine. LABELLE had two previous driving related convictions and as a result his license was suspended at the time of the incident.

On October 24, 2016, LABELLE pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Driving While Ability Impaired as a Felony, and (1) Count of Felony Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle before the Honorable Gerald W. Connolly. At the time of his plea, LABELLE agreed to participate in the Albany County Drug Court Program and signed a drug court agreement stating that if he was unsuccessfully discharged from the program or violated the terms of probation he would be sentenced to a period of incarceration in State Prison. LABELLE violated the terms of the participation agreement by failing to appear in court or for drug court meetings with drug court staff for several months. Additionally, LABELLE did not inform drug court staff of his current address, and was out of contact with the Court for over 11 months. An arrest warrant was issued and LABELLE was subsequently taken into custody.

“Unfortunately, this young man was not able to take advantage of the help available to him through the Albany County Drug Court Program. Appearing for scheduled meetings and being actively involved in the program takes responsibility which may be difficult for those in the grip of addiction. We hope that he avails himself to the treatment opportunities while in corrections,” commented District Attorney David Soares

Vehicular Crimes Bureau Chief Mary Tanner-Richter prosecuted this case.

For more information please contact Cecilia Walsh at cecilia.walsh@albanycountyny.gov.

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