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Leandra's Law Violation Leads to State Prison for Albany Man

*Drunk Driver Led Police on High Speed Chase and Crashed With Two Children
under the Age of Four in the Vehicle*



ALBANY, NY- District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that JOSEPH BRENNAN, 23, of Albany, was sentenced to 2 to 4 years in State Prison, in addition to a concurrent State Prison term of 1 to 3 years before the Honorable Andrew Ceresia in the Supreme Court of Albany County this morning for recklessly driving while intoxicated with two children under the age of four in his vehicle.

On July 19, 2013, BRENNAN pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Reckless Endangerment in the First Degree, a Class D Felony and (1) Count of Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated, Child in Vehicle; a Class E Felony.

On March 16, 2013 on Western Avenue in the Town of Guilderland, BRENNAN was observed operating a motor vehicle by a member of the Guilderland Police Department weaving in and out of the lane. When the officer attempted to initiate a traffic stop, BRENNAN did not pull over and instead led the officer on a high speed pursuit through Crossgates Mall roadways and Interstate 87 North. During the pursuit multiple motorists were forced to pull over because of the defendant's erratic driving.

When BRENNAN exited Interstate 87 North at the Central Avenue exit, he drove up onto a raised median divider. BRENNAN then collided into another vehicle, causing the driver to crash into a building and sustain physical injuries. The defendant then took the two children under the age of 4 from the vehicle, and fled on foot in the area of the Northway Mall, where he was apprehended by police.

BRENNAN failed multiple field sobriety tests and underwent a Drug Influence Evaluation and was found to additionally be under the influence of cannabis.

“Mr. Brennan’s decision to drink and drive places motorists at risk and did in fact cause an injury to another driver. Equally offensive was his decision to place his own children at risk by driving drunk with them in the car. Those kids did not have a choice,” commented District Attorney Soares.

Assistant District Attorney Matthew Peluso of the Financial Crimes Unit handled the prosecution of this case.

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

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