



Office of the District Attorney

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## **Motorist with Three Previous Felony Driving While Intoxicated Convictions Pleads Guilty to Drunk Driving**



**ALBANY, NY**-District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that PAUL ETZEL, 31, of Cohoes, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Driving While Intoxicated, a Class D Felony, before the Honorable Peter A. Lynch in Albany County Court this morning.

On March 9, 2014 in the vicinity of Route 9 and Sparrowbush Road in the Town of Colonie, ETZEL was observed by members of the Colonie Police Department operating a motor vehicle with a broken headlight and initiated a traffic stop. Upon speaking with ETZEL, officers noticed

multiple physical signs of intoxication and detected the odor of alcoholic beverage coming from his breath.

After removing ETZEL from the vehicle officers administered multiple field sobriety tests, which he failed. ETZEL was taken into custody and later refused to submit to a chemical test to determine his blood alcohol content.

At the time of his arrest, ETZEL was on Felony Probation stemming from his conviction on January 10, 2012 of (1) Count of Driving While Intoxicated, a Class D Felony, and on April 5, 2012 of (1) Count of Driving While Intoxicated, a Class E Felony. The guilty plea entered by ETZEL this morning is his fourth Felony Driving While Intoxicated conviction since 2008.

ETZEL faces 1 2/3 to 5 years in State Prison when sentenced on July 17, 2014. Additionally, ETZEL must also pay a \$2,000 fine, install an ignition interlock device in any vehicle he owns for a period of 3 years following his release from custody and be subject to a minimum of 18 months of license revocation, subject to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Vehicular Crimes Unit Bureau Chief Mary Tanner-Richter is handling the prosecution of this case.

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

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