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Additional Charges in Funeral Home Fraud Case

New Charges include Tax Violations and Alleged Theft in Excess of \$50,000



ALBANY, NY- District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that SAMUEL F. CATALANO, JR., 58, currently of Berlin, NY, was arraigned on (1) Count of Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a Class C Felony, (3) Counts of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, all Class D Felonies, (1) Count of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a Class E Felony, (3) Counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, all Class E Felonies, (2) Counts of Criminal Tax Fraud in the Fourth Degree, all Class E Felonies, (1) Count of Criminal Tax Fraud in the Fifth Degree, a Class A Misdemeanor, and (1) Count of Scheme to Defraud in the First

Degree, a Class E Felony, before the Honorable Judge Stephen W. Herrick in Albany County Court this morning.

CATALANO JR. pleaded not guilty to the charges today, and was released on bail that had been previously posted.

In 2013, an independent forensic account audit for the Parker Brothers Memorial Funeral Home in Watervliet, NY, uncovered fraudulent entries in the business record books during a period of time between 2010 and 2013.

An investigation led by the New York State Police uncovered that during those dates, SAMUEL F. CATALANO, JR., with the assistance of co-defendant MARK S. FIET, did allegedly steal in large sums of money from the proceeds of the funeral home and proceed to make false entries in the business records of the establishment.

At the time of the alleged theft, CATALANO JR. was a manager and director within the business, while FIET was working as the funeral home director and office manager.

A Grand Jury also returned an indictment against CATALANO JR., alleging that between March 2010 and July of 2013, did engage in a scheme to defraud the Parker Brothers Funeral Home by illegally taking money from the business and making false entries into the business record to conceal the crime. The indictment also alleges that CATALANO JR. did steal over \$50,000 from the funeral home and fail to report that money as income, resulting in a tax law violation.

On December 1, 2015, co-defendant FIET, 64, of Clifton Park, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a Class D Felony, and (1) Count of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, a Class E Felony, before the Honorable Judge Stephen W. Herrick.

FIET faces up to 1 to 3 years in State Prison, and will be ordered to pay between \$50,000 to \$65,000 in restitution, when sentenced on February 2, 2016.

Financial Crimes Unit Bureau Chief Daniel Lynch is prosecuting this case.

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

All parties are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty and convicted

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