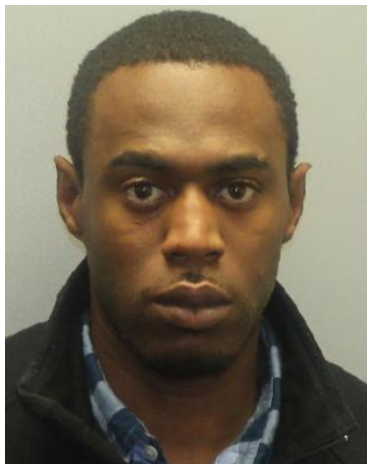




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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** APRIL 10, 2015

## **Guilty Plea after Half Kilo of Cocaine Found During I-87 Speeding Stop**



**ALBANY, NY** – District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that **BRANDELL WATKINS**, 31, of Utica, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Second Degree, a Class A-II Felony, before the Honorable Judge Peter A. Lynch in Albany County Court this morning.

On March 12, 2015, at approximately 6:59 p.m., members of the New York State Police pulled a vehicle over on I-87 in the Town of Guilderland for speeding. Upon approach of the vehicle, officers observed visible marijuana residue on the rear driver's side floor in plain view. A search of the trunk revealed

approximately 500 grams of cocaine in the rear driver side wheel well.

WATKINS faces 7 years in State Prison, to be followed by 5 years of Post-Release Supervision, when sentenced on June 5, 2015.

Assistant District Attorney Joseph Brucato of the Street Crimes Unit is prosecuting this case.

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

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