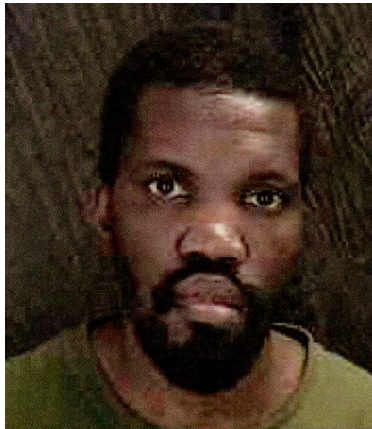




OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
P. DAVID SOARES  
6 LODGE STREET  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207  
(518) 487-5460  
(518) 487-5093 FAX

**CONTACT:** CECILIA WALSH (518) 275-4710  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** FEBRUARY 23, 2015

## **Guilty Plea in Check Fraud Case**



**ALBANY, NY-** District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that WILLIE COOK, 44, of Albany, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a Class E Felony, before the Honorable Andrew Ceresia in Albany County Court this morning.

Between the dates of August 22, 2014 and January 22, 2014, COOK opened multiple bank accounts at three separate local banks and used the starter checks provided by the banks to withdraw money. The accounts did not have enough money to cover these checks and therefore defrauded the banks this money. Additionally, an investigation uncovered that COOK opened these bank accounts using fraudulent social security numbers.

Trial against COOK was slated to begin tomorrow in Albany County Court. COOK faces 1 ½ to 3 years in State Prison when sentenced on May 22, 2015.

Assistant District Attorney Jessica Blain-Lewis of the Financial Crimes Unit is prosecuting this case.

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

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