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Guilty Verdict After Identity Theft Trial



ALBANY, NY –District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that PRATHER JONES, 64, of Albany, was found guilty after a jury trial of (2) Counts of Identity Theft in the First Degree, both Class D Felonies, (1) Count of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a Class D Felony, (1) Count of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a Class D Felony, (1) Count of Attempted Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a Class E Felony, and (2) Counts of Conspiracy in the 5th Degree, both Class A Misdemeanors, before the Honorable Roger D. McDonough in Albany County Supreme Court today.

During 2014, at locations in the City of Albany and in the Town of East Greenbush, JONES did possess multiple forms of identification of a victim, and did take out a car loan and credit at a local jewelry store using said stolen information. The auto dealership contacted authorities when a discrepancy arose over the validity of a fraudulent driver's license presented by JONES and by a co-defendant. Months later, the victim also received information about a credit account in the mail that was opened by JONES and the co-defendant.

JONES faces multiple consecutive sentences of 3 ½ to 7 years in State Prison when sentenced on April 15, 2016.

On February 5, 2016, PRATHER JONES' co-defendant TRAVIS CHANDLER, 45, of Albany, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Identity Theft in the First Degree, a Class D Felony, and (1) Count of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a Class D Felony. CHANDLER has a previous felony conviction for Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument and faces 4 to 8 years in State Prison when sentenced on April 1, 2016.

The case was investigated by the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles Division of Field Investigations and the Albany County District Attorney's Office.

Assistant District Attorney Jessica Blain-Lewis of the Financial Crimes Unit is prosecuting these cases.

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

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