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Illegal Weapons Yield State Prison Pleas



Joel Hart



Jamal Brown

ALBANY, NY- District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that two defendants have pleaded guilty to illegal firearms possession in two separate cases in Albany County Court and will be headed to State Prison.

JOEL HART, 29, of Schenectady, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Attempted Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree, a Class D Felony, before Honorable Stephen W. Herrick in Albany County Court this morning.

On September 6, 2013 members of the Albany Police Department responded to a report of a fight at the Elbow Room on Delaware Avenue. Upon arrival officers were informed that a male on the scene was in possession of a handgun. Police then found HART in his vehicle which had just been involved in a property crash. Officers observed a Sig Sauer 9mm handgun that was loaded with 9 live rounds of ammunition inside HART's vehicle in plain view on the floor by the driver side seat.

HART faces 5 years in State Prison, to be followed by 5 years of Post Release Supervision, when he is sentenced on November 7, 2013.

Additionally, in a separate case, JAMAL BROWN, 36, of Albany, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree, a Class C Felony, before Honorable Stephen W. Herrick in Albany County Court this morning.

An investigation by the Albany Police Department led to the execution of a search warrant on BROWN's South Pearl Street home on August 8, 2013. During the execution of the search warrant BROWN was found to be in possession of a Nef Co. .22 caliber revolver considered to be loaded with 9 live rounds of ammunition. Police also uncovered 133 bags of heroin that were determined to be in BROWN'S possession. BROWN'S guilty plea today fully satisfies both the weapon and drug related charges stemming from arrest relating to this search warrant.

BROWN faces 3 ½ years in State Prison, to be followed by 5 years of Post Release Supervision, when he is sentenced on November 7, 2013.

Assistant District Attorney Kurt Haas of the Street Crimes Bureau handled the prosecution of both of these cases.

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

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