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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** APRIL 27, 2018

## **Man Sentenced Today for Separate Financial Crime, Drug Crime, and Vehicular Crime**



**ALBANY, NY** – District Attorney P. David Soares today announced that LEON POUND, 49, of Albany, was sentenced to a total of 4 ½ to 6 years in State Prison, before the Honorable Peter A. Lynch in Albany County Court this morning.

On September 27, 2017, while wearing a construction hard-hat and vest, and using a Certificate of "Doing Business As" which he had previously filed with Albany County Clerk, and a Taxpayer ID number from the IRS, POUND opened a savings and checking business account at Sunmark Bank in Colonie under "Landmark Construction." Between September 28th and 30th 2017, POUND deposited multiple forged checks into said account. The checks were made out to "Landmark Construction" and purported to be from a client. Between September 28th and October 3rd 2017, POUND withdrew the majority of the funds from the forged checks, resulting in a total loss to Sunmark of \$1,930.00. An investigation uncovered that no such construction company existed and the client purported to have written the checks was actually deceased. On April 6, 2018, POUND pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Grand Larceny in the 4th Degree, a Class E Felony.

Additionally, on October 12, 2017, subsequent to a home visit conducted by the Department of Probation, POUND was found in possession of 104 glassine envelopes of heroin and a digital scale. On November 3, 2017, POUND pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Attempted Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree. POUND was released by the Court pending sentencing.

POUND was then re-arrested on November 24, 2017 and charged with Aggravated Unlicensed Operation in the First Degree, Unlawfully Fleeing an Officer, Leaving the Scene of an Automobile Accident, and other vehicle and traffic law offenses. Members of the Albany Police Department attempted to stop a vehicle being driven by POUND for traffic violations near the intersection of First Street and Lexington Avenue in the City of Albany when the car sped off, reaching speeds of 55 miles per hour on city streets. POUND then ran a stop sign and drove on the sidewalk in an attempt to evade the police before ultimately crashing into a building on Clinton Avenue. POUND's license was suspended a total of 27 times over 11 dates.

Today POUND was sentenced to 1 ½ to 3 years in State Prison for the Grand Larceny charge, in addition to a consecutive term of 3 years in State Prison for the drug possession charge. The conviction today fully satisfies the outstanding charges relating to the vehicular crash.

Assistant District Attorney Shadi Masri of the Financial Crimes Unit and Assistant District Attorney Stephen Lydon of the Street Crimes Unit respectively handled the prosecution of this case.

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