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Sentencing for Repeat DWI Offender Who Crashed In Off Road Pursuit



ALBANY, NY - District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that STEVEN DENNIS, 25, of Delmar, was sentenced to 2 to 6 years in State Prison, a \$2,000 fine, participation in a Victim Impact Panel, 3 years of mandatory Interlock Ignition Device upon release from custody, and an 18 month license revocation subject to the Department of Motor Vehicles, before the Honorable Stephen W. Herrick in Albany County Court this morning.

On November 25, 2014, DENNIS pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Driving While Intoxicated, a Class D Felony.

On October 13, 2014, at approximately 7:16 p.m., a deputy with the Albany County Sheriff's Department observed a Jeep being operated by DENNIS parked partially in Newry Road at the intersection of State Route 32 in the Town of Westerlo. When the deputy executed a U-turn, DENNIS started his Jeep and fled. As DENNIS fled, he was observed almost striking a civilian vehicle with his Jeep. After making a left on State Route 32, DENNIS proceeded to drive into and out of a ditch on to Carr Road. DENNIS led the officer on a high speed pursuit, and at the end of Carr Road, DENNIS continued onto a dirt road where he proceeded to crash the vehicle into a tree, disabling his vehicle. Following being informed of his rights, DENNIS admitted to consuming alcohol before driving. DENNIS registered a .13 on a Datamaster Breath Analysis test.

At the time of this incident, DENNIS was illegally driving his vehicle without a valid driver's license and in circumvention of an Interlock Ignition Device. The device had been put in place due to a prior Felony Driving While Intoxicated conviction from October of 2013.

"The reality exists that there are impaired drivers sharing our roadways at all times and in all towns in this County," commented DA Soares. "I thank Deputy Harrington for diffusing what could have been a dangerous situation. He was able to call in paramedics to help the passenger in the vehicle who was injured during the crash, and also take the defendant in to custody without incident."

Assistant District Attorney Dave Szalda of the Vehicular Crimes Unit prosecuted this case.

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

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