



Orange County News

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District Attorney Hoovler Announces Guilty Pleas By Former Town of Tuxedo Police Sergeant

*Admits Committing the Crimes of Coercion in the Second Degree and Official Misconduct
While Acting as a Town of Tuxedo Police Sergeant.*

Orange County District Attorney David M. Hoovler announced that on Friday, July 28, 2017, Anthony D'Elia, 44, of Tuxedo, pleaded guilty to the crimes of Coercion in the Second Degree and Official Misconduct, in connection with a car stop he had conducted as a sergeant with the Town of Tuxedo Police Department. At the time that he pleaded guilty before Orange County Court Judge Nicholas De Rosa, D'Elia admitted that he had stopped a motorist on Route 17, in Tuxedo, on May 19, 2016, and that he discovered that the motorist was recording his interaction with D'Elia using a digital recording device. D'Elia admitted coercing the motorist into destroying the memory card which contained the recording of their interaction, by instilling in him a fear that if he did not destroy the memory card D'Elia would arrest the motorist.

An investigation into Sergeant D'Elia's actions was commenced by the Orange County District Attorney's after a request from the Town of Tuxedo Police Department. The matter was presented to an Orange County grand jury, which charged D'Elia with various crimes, including the two to which he pleaded guilty. D'Elia surrendered to Orange County District Attorney Office investigators on February 24, 2017. In the event that D'Elia did not plead guilty, a jury trial was scheduled to commence on July 31, 2017.

The two guilty pleas were entered into upon the condition that D'Elia irrevocably resign as a Town of Tuxedo police officer, and the convictions will result in him being unable to be employed as police officer in the State of New York. D'Elia, who stated on the record that he is moving to the Maine prior to sentencing, is scheduled to be sentenced on August 9, 2017.

District Attorney Hoovler thanked the Town of Tuxedo Police Department for their cooperation in the investigation.

The case was prosecuted by Chief Assistant District Attorney Christopher Borek.

“Being a police officer in a free society is one of the noblest of professions, as well as one of the most difficult of jobs,” said Chief Assistant District Attorney Christopher Borek. “It is always sad when we discover that a police officer has abused his position to commit crimes. Thankfully, instances of this occurring are rare, particularly here in Orange County, where the vast majority of our police officers behave honorably and legally in risking their lives every day to keep our residents and property safe. When a police officer abuses his position he must be removed from office and prosecuted. These guilty pleas will prevent this defendant from ever again being able to use his badge to commit crimes.”

A criminal charge is merely an allegation by the police that a defendant has committed a violation of the criminal law, and it is not evidence of guilt. All defendants are presumed innocent and entitled to a fair trial, during which it will be the State of New York’s burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.



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