

## Queensbury man convicted of sex offenses during trial in Warren County

(10/24/22) WARREN COUNTY, NY -- **Warren County District Attorney Jason Carusone** announced today that Jose Omar Aguilar Gomez of Queensbury was convicted of felony charges of Predatory Sexual Assault Against a Child and Sexual Abuse in the First Degree and misdemeanor Endangering the Welfare of a Child In Warren County Court on Friday, October 21, 2022, after a week-long trial.

The trial jury heard evidence that Gomez, 28, engaged in a course of sexual conduct against a child under 11 years old. The case was prosecuted by Warren County Assistant District Attorney Benjamin Smith with Assistant District Attorney Connor Smith serving as second chair. The Director of the Warren County Crime Victims Assistance Program, Manon Affinito, worked closely with the victim and their family.

**District Attorney Carusone said:** "This child victim, who had been through so much trauma, bravely faced their abuser in court and gave compelling testimony that was supported by DNA and medical evidence. I'm grateful that the jury's verdict will hold the defendant accountable and provide some justice for this young victim."

District Attorney Carusone also thanked the members of the New York State Police who investigated the case with special emphasis on Sgt. Adam Norton, Investigator Cecile Labarron and Forensic Scientist Kristine Robinson. He also praised the tireless efforts of the staff of the Warren/Washington County Child Advocacy Center, Nadia Giumarra, Director of the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program at Glens Falls Hospital, and the many other medical professionals who assisted in treating the child victim.

Warren County Court Judge Hon. Robert A. Smith scheduled a sentencing date of December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. Gomez faces a minimum sentence of 10-years-to-life and a maximum of 25-years-to-life in state prison on the top count of Predatory Sexual Assault Against a Child. The defendant was remanded to Warren County Jail by the court and is also held in custody by a U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement detainer.

## Queensbury man pleads guilty in child sexual assault case

(October 5, 2022)

WARREN COUNTY, NY – Warren County District Attorney Jason Carusone announced today that Brian A. Combs, of Queensbury, pleaded guilty Wednesday, October 5, 2022 to one felony count of Course of Sexual Conduct Against a Child in the First Degree. The guilty plea occurred before the Hon. Warren County Judge Robert A. Smith.

As a result of the plea, Combs agreed to serve 10 years in a state correctional facility, serve an additional 10 years of post-release supervision when he is released, register as a sex offender and provide a sample of his DNA for the New York State Database. Sentencing is scheduled in Warren County Court on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**Warren County District Attorney Jason Carusone said:** “The victims showed true bravery by coming forward to law enforcement and standing firm through the course of the prosecution. Their resolve and the State Police investigation helped our office hold the defendant accountable and protect the community from this sexual predator.”

The case was investigated by the New York State Police and was prosecuted by Warren County Assistant District Attorneys Benjamin Smith and Ann Vondrak, with the assistance of Senior Crime Victim Specialist Manon Affinito.

The defendant is being held in the Warren County jail pending sentencing.

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## **New indictment filed in Lake George fatal crash case**

(September 27, 2022)

WARREN COUNTY, NY – Warren County District Attorney Jason Carusone announced today that a superseding indictment has been filed against an Albany man accused of crimes in connection with a fatal motorcycle crash in Lake George on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Anthony J. Futia faces 15 charges, with a Warren County grand jury adding two (2) new felony charges of aggravated vehicular homicide. In addition to the new charges, Futia continues to face three (3) other counts of aggravated vehicular homicide, two (2) counts of second-degree manslaughter, two (2) counts of vehicular assault and one (1) count of second-degree assault, all felonies. He also is accused of misdemeanor charges of driving while intoxicated, driving while under the combined influence of drugs and alcohol, reckless driving and aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Futia will be arraigned on the new indictment on a future date. He is being held in custody pending further court action.

The charges stem from an incident the afternoon of June 12 where Futia is accused of driving a motorcycle from Route 9 onto Warren County Bikeway, striking a group and leading to the death of an 8-year-old boy, serious injury to the boy’s mother, and the death of her 38 year old fiancé. The accused is afforded the legal presumption of innocence.

As the case is pending, the District Attorney’s Office will have no further comment on the matter at this time.

## **Queensbury man receives 20-year prison sentence for child sexual abuse**

WARREN COUNTY, NY – Warren County District Attorney Jason Carusone announced September 16, 2022 that Zachary A. Mead has been sentenced to 20 years in a state correctional facility to be followed by 20 years of post-release supervision for child sexual assault. The sentence was imposed Friday by the Honorable Warren County Judge Robert A. Smith.

Mead, of Queensbury, entered a guilty plea to Course of Sexual Conduct Against a Child in the First Degree, a felony, on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 while jury selection in his trial was ongoing. The charge stemmed from repeated sexual assaults of a child.

The defendant later attempted to withdraw his plea and that request was denied by Judge Smith.

Carusone praised the work of Warren County Assistant District Attorney Benjamin Smith and his co-counsel, First Assistant District Attorney Matthew Burin. Carusone also complimented the Warren and Washington Counties CARE Center for their work with the victim, and the investigate efforts of the Warren County Sheriff's Office.

**District Attorney Carusone said:** "This case was protracted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and yet the victim and her family remained strong throughout the process. This sentence holds the defendant accountable and serves to protect the community from this sexual predator."

Mead will be required to register as a sex offender and a sample of his DNA will be entered into the New York State DNA database.

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## **Glens Falls man pleads guilty for bank robbery**

WARREN COUNTY, NY – Warren County District Attorney Jason Carusone announced Friday, September 16, 2022 that Joseph L. Skellie has pleaded guilty to Robbery in the third degree, a felony, for the March robbery of a bank branch in Glens Falls.

Skellie, of Glens Falls, pleaded guilty Friday, September 16, 2022 before Honorable Warren County Judge Robert Smith for robbing Glens Falls National Bank on Broad Street on March 28, 2022. The Glens Falls Police Department investigation determined that while the defendant did not use or display a weapon, he did submit a handwritten note to a bank teller demanding money.

An undisclosed amount of money was stolen, and the robbery note was recovered during the investigation.

Skellie is expected to be sentenced on October 5, 2022 to an indeterminate term of imprisonment of 3 ½ - 7 years in prison, which is the maximum sentence for a predicate felon on the charge of Robbery in the third degree. He is being held in Warren County Jail pending sentencing.

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## New York City man headed to prison in heroin, crack cocaine case

WARREN COUNTY, NY – Warren County District Attorney Jason Carusone announced Monday, September 12, that Saquan Lamont entered guilty pleas to all charges pending against him in an indictment brought for possession of cocaine and heroin.

The guilty pleas occurred as a jury trial was beginning in the case Monday in Warren County Court. Lamont pleaded guilty to felony charges of first-degree criminal of a controlled substance and third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance and two (2) misdemeanor charges of criminally using drug paraphernalia.

Lamont, of New York City, was arrested with 11 ounces of crack cocaine and 1.48 ounces of heroin during a traffic stop by State Police March 21, 2021 in Queensbury.

The honorable Warren County Court Judge Robert Smith is expected to sentence the defendant to 10 years in New York state prison to be followed by up to 5 years of post release supervision. Sentencing is scheduled on December 21, 2022.

District Attorney Carusone complimented the work of New York State Police Trooper Peyton Ogden and Investigator Aaron Mound for their handling of the case. Carusone thanked First Assistant District Attorney Matthew Burin and Assistant District Attorney Grant Jones for their work preparing the case for trial.

The defendant was represented by Taalib Horton. The defendant is being held on bail in the Warren County Jail pending sentencing.

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## Man pleads guilty in rape case

WARREN COUNTY, NY -- Warren County District Attorney Jason Carusone announced today that Bruce Haywood, of Indianapolis, Indiana, pleaded guilty Friday, September 2, 2022 to all charges in an indictment that charged him with three felony counts of Rape in the Third Degree and one misdemeanor count of Endangering the Welfare of a Child.

The plea occurred in Warren County Court at the commencement of trial, just prior to the beginning of jury selection.

Warren County Court Judge Hon. Robert A. Smith indicated that the defendant would be sentenced up to eight years in a state correctional facility when sentencing occurs on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 11 a.m. The defendant is free on bail pending sentencing, and sentence enhancement warnings were issued by Judge Smith if the defendant violates bail or release conditions before sentencing.

The case was prosecuted by Warren County Assistant District Attorneys Benjamin Smith and Morgan Cosentino. The case was investigated by the Glens Falls Police Department.

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**District Attorney Carusone announces 13-count indictment for Lake George motorcycle fatalities**

WARREN COUNTY, NY -- Warren County District Attorney Jason Carusone announced Tuesday that Anthony J. Futia has been indicted on 13 charges by a Warren County Grand Jury in connection with the June 12th motorcycle crash in Lake George that resulted in the deaths of an 8-year-old boy and a man who was walking with the boy.

Futia, 33, of Albany, pleaded not guilty to the indictment Tuesday before the Honorable Warren County Judge Robert Smith, and was remanded to the custody of the Warren County Sheriff's Office pending further court action.

Full orders of protection were issued for the survivors of the collision. The defendant was represented by the Warren County Public Defender's Office.

The indictment includes counts of aggravated vehicular homicide, a Class B Felony punishable by up to 8-1/3 to 25 years in state prison, and lesser felony charges of second-degree manslaughter, aggravated vehicular assault and second-degree assault, as well as the misdemeanors of driving while intoxicated, driving while ability impaired by the combined influence of alcohol and any drug or drugs, reckless driving and aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. (A copy of the indictment is attached.)

The charges stem from an incident the afternoon of June 12 where Futia is accused of driving a motorcycle onto Warren County Bikeway, striking a group on the bike path near Bloody Pond Road.

The Warren County District Attorney's Office has no further comment on this case at this time.

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