

For Immediate Release

January 13, 2012

PRESS RELEASE

January 13, 2012 – Defendant, James R. Thomas, pled guilty to Promoting Prison Contraband in the First Degree, a class D felony, in Monroe County Court, before Hon. James J. Piampiano.

Mr. Thomas admitted that between March 20, 2011 and March 31, 2011, he obtained and possessed a cellular telephone and cellular telephone charger, considered dangerous contraband and illegal for inmates to possess, while incarcerated in the Monroe County Jail. Judge Piampiano has promised Mr. Thomas a prison sentence of three (3) years to six (6) years. Mr. Thomas' sentencing is scheduled for February 9, 2012, at 1:30 p.m.

Joseph Mitchell and Mathias Smith are also charged in the same indictment. Joseph Mitchell is charged with two counts of Escape in the First Degree, two counts of Promoting Prison Contraband in the First Degree and one count of Criminal Mischief. Mathias Smith is charged with two counts of Hindering Prosecution in the Third Degree. Eddie Palmer, who had also been charged in the same indictment, pled guilty to one count of Escape in the First Degree on September 29, 2011, and was sentenced on October 27, 2011, to three and one-half (3 ½) to seven (7) years in prison. Rudolph Lepore, had also been charged in the same indictment. On December 9, 2011, Mr. Lepore pled guilty to one count of Promoting Prison Contraband in the First Degree. He is scheduled to be sentenced on February 2, 2012.

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