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Press Release

SHERIFF DAVID P. Bartlett

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: April 18, 2014

17-Year Veteran of the Columbia County Sheriff's Office Pleads Guilty To One Count of Official Misconduct

GREENPORT, NY – Sheriff David P. Bartlett reports that a former sergeant for the Columbia County Sheriff's Office pleaded guilty in the Greenport Municipal Court today (Friday, April 18, 2014) to one misdemeanor count of official misconduct (a Class A misdemeanor).

Former Sgt. William Zincio, 45, of Greenport NY, 17-year veteran of the Sheriff's Office, surrendered himself this morning to sheriff's deputies at the town court. He was subsequently arrested, charged and pleaded guilty before Judge Robert Brenzel.

The action came on the heels of a 100-day joint investigation by the office of the Columbia County District Attorney Paul Czajka and the Sheriff's Office internal affairs unit. The investigation began in late December 2013.

"Mr. Zincio was allowed to resign and as of today is no longer employed by the Columbia County Sheriff's Office," said Sheriff David P. Bartlett.

"Based on the nature of the offense, and according to the terms of the plea, Mr. Zincio will not go to jail but will be required to make restitution to Columbia County in the amount of \$3,399.70 for falsifying official documents of the Sheriff's Office and being paid for work he did not perform," said Sheriff Bartlett.

"Both the district attorney and I are of the opinion that the immediate and successive surrender, arrest, guilty plea and disposition of this case today were all in the best interests of the people Columbia County as well as the Sheriff's Office. I want to stress that at no time were the people of this county put at risk and that this is a non-violent, administrative crime. It is indeed a crime and, therefore, a serious breach of the public trust, neither of which can be dealt with in any other way," according to Sheriff Bartlett.

"The investigation began when possible discrepancies of falsified time sheets were reported internally. Working jointly and with the guidance of District Attorney Czajka and his staff right along, we were able to build a firm case," Bartlett added.

"As sheriff I am sorry to have to report that something like this involved one of our own, a trusted, ranking deputy. That being said, the people of Columbia County elected me last November to do a job. I answer 100 percent to the people of this county, and for illegal activity of any kind, everyone will be held accountable, police officers or not," he concluded.