



NEWS RELEASE

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WAYNE VALLEY SMOKE BOMB PLEA

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes has announced that Michael J. Bacchioni, Robert S. Margolies, and Mauricio Alarco have entered pleas of guilty to charges stemming from the June 13, 2007, incident at Wayne Valley High School, in which smoke bombs were discovered in school lockers during Senior Week.

The three defendants, all residents of Wayne, New Jersey, entered pleas of guilty to three separate crimes before Honorable Marilyn C. Clark. The three defendants pled guilty to Conspiracy to Commit Unlicensed Entry of a School during the early morning hours of June 12, 2007, Unlicensed Entry of a School during the evening of June 12, 2007, and Recklessly Creating a Risk of Widespread Injury or Damage for placing the smoke bombs in the school lockers during the school day of June 13, 2007.

In exchange for the pleas of guilty, the defendants will be placed in the Pre-Trial Intervention Program for a period of one year. The Pre-Trial Intervention Program is a diversionary program for first time offenders. The defendants will also be required to each perform one hundred hours of community service. The community service includes speaking as a group to Wayne Township High School students about their crimes and the potential for serious harm their actions created. The defendants must apologize to the students, families, faculty and administration of Wayne Valley High School for the emotional stress, and disruption of class created by their actions. Finally, the defendants must each pay restitution in the amount of \$8,732.48 to cover the cost of overtime incurred by the law enforcement agencies assigned to investigate this matter.

Prosecutor Valdes wishes to thank the administration and faculty of Wayne Valley High School including Dr John Sico, Superintendent of the Wayne Public School System, and Robert Ceberio, the President of the Wayne Board of Education, for their cooperation during this investigation. Prosecutor Valdes also wishes to credit the law enforcement agencies for their assistance in this investigation including the Wayne Police Department, the Passaic County Sheriff's Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearm, and Explosives, the Emergency Medical Technicians and Hazmat Members of Wayne Township, the State Fire Marshal's Office, Members of the Wayne Fire Department and the Detectives of the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit and Intelligence Unit.