

**News Release from**  
**The Honorable Sandra Doorley**  
**Monroe County District Attorney**

August 26, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Nicholas Pheilshifter Sentenced to 7 Years for Terrorism Charges**

Rochester, NY- August 26, 2019, a 17-year-old in Monroe County Youth Part, Nicholas Pheilshifter, was sentenced by Acting County Court Judge Stacey Romeo to 7 years in the New York State Department of Corrections with 5 years of post-release supervision after pleading guilty to Attempted Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree as a Crime of Terrorism on July 25, 2019.

Between September of 2018 and January of 2019, Vincent Vetromile, Brian Colaneri, Andrew Crysel and Nicholas Pheilshifter engaged in the deliberate planning of a domestic terrorism attack aimed at the Muslim community of Islamberg in Delaware County, New York. All four defendants planned the acquisition of weapons and discussed methods and strategies for their attack. Vetromile, in particular, solicited another individual to manufacture improvised explosive devices to be used in furtherance of this conspiracy.

August 16, 2019, 20-year-old Brian Colaneri and 19-year-old Andrew Crysel were sentenced by Monroe County Court Judge Valleriani to 4-12 years in the New York State Department of Corrections after pleading guilty to Conspiracy in the Second Degree as a Crime of Terrorism.

Vetromile is scheduled to be sentenced on August 29, 2019, also in front of Judge Valleriani, and is expected to be sentenced to 7 years in the New York State Department of Corrections with 5 years post-release supervision.

The case was prosecuted by Matthew Schwartz, Chief of the Special Investigations Bureau, and Senior Assistant District Attorney Daniel Strollo of the Major Felony Bureau.

“The acts of Nicholas Pheilshifter and the three other defendants led to a mindset of terror and distress in the lives of the members of the Islamberg community,” said Assistant District Attorney Matthew Schwartz. “These hateful actions put a target on the backs of a community based on their religion, a concept that is intolerable for the Monroe County District Attorney’s Office. Today’s sentence is one more step for the people of the Islamberg Community to heal and hopefully return to their normal lives without a state of panic and fear.”

“I cannot stress enough how important it is to say something if you think there is even a minuscule chance that violence may occur,” said District Attorney Sandra Doorley. “Thanks to one community

member who reported a concerning conversion along with the serious and swift investigation by the Greece Police Department, an attack on the Islamberg community may have been prevented. These defendants targeted the residents of Islamberg solely because of their religious beliefs and the Monroe County District Attorney's Office will not tolerate this hate and violence in any form."

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