

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



THOMAS J. SPOTA
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

April 10, 2012

\$500,000 cash bail for East Hampton woman charged with violating probation

State Supreme Court Justice William Condon today ordered an East Hampton woman held in lieu of \$500,000 cash bail or one million dollars bond for allegedly violating the conditions of her dwi probation by drinking wine at Gurney's Inn in Montauk last month. Since 2003, Charlotte DePersia has been arrested three times for driving under the influence of alcohol, most recently in 2010 when she crossed the centerline of a Bridgehampton road and struck an oncoming car injuring two women.

At today's court appearance Major Crime Assistant District Attorney Kate Wagner reminded the defendant of Justice Condon's words prior to sentencing her to probation on December 13 of last year.

Citing the minutes of the sentencing, ADA Wagner quoted Justice Condon as saying, "Ms. DePersia you have no margin for error – none...one dirty urine will put her (you) in jail, that's all I'll require.... Forget drinking and driving, you can never drink again at all...you can't drink even in your living room." To which the defendant replied, according to the sentencing minutes, "I understand".

Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota said DePersia violated the terms of her probation by drinking two glasses of wine at Gurney's Inn on Saturday night, March 10 of this year. The defendant's SCRAM ankle device registered a .039 blood alcohol level, consistent with a reading reflecting the consumption of two glasses of wine.

DePersia, 59 of Toilsome Lane, is currently incarcerated in the Suffolk County jail.

Before remanding DePersia to the jail and setting cash bail, Justice Condon today said “One slip-up is one slip-up too many. I was crystal clear. There was no margin for error – I took a chance on you Ms. DePersia. Two glasses of wine is two too many.”

The defendant will next appear in court on May 1. District Attorney Spota said the Judge’s comments and the half-million dollars of cash bail imposed “were appropriate”.

“She was given a tremendous break last December - considering she injured two innocent people in her most recent dwi episode and not only was she driving drunk, she was drinking wine from a coffee cup as she was driving. As the court said today, in no uncertain terms, one slip-up is one too many.”

DA Spota said the district attorney’s office will recommend one and one-third to four years imprisonment at DePersia’s sentencing. ###



Charlotte DePersia
DOB: 02-19-1953

SCDA COMMUNICATIONS

Robert.Clifford@suffolkcountyny.gov

A criminal charge is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.