

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



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Level 3 Sex Offender convicted of failing to register to be sentenced

A Mastic Beach man pulled over by a Suffolk County Police officer for speeding and in a follow-up police investigation found to be a convicted sex offender who failed to register his current address as required by law, is scheduled for sentencing tomorrow in Riverhead, Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota said.

After a three week trial Richard Lanham was convicted on October 1 of failure to register or verify as a sex offender, a class E felony punishable by a maximum sentence of one and one-third to four years' incarceration.

"During the traffic stop on Sunrise Highway, Lanham told the highway patrolman that he was heading home to Mastic Beach and that he had been living there with his girlfriend for five years," DA Spota said. "Lanham's drivers' license had a Levittown address and when the officer ran the defendant through his database, he learned that Lanham was a level three sex offender – information he reported to detectives in the police department's Special Victims Section for further investigation. Suffolk detectives established he was living at 70 Washington Drive in Mastic Beach and not at 35 Coppersmith Road in Levittown, the residence he reported to law enforcement."

Lanham, 49, is out on bail pending tomorrow's sentencing.

The defendant is classified as a level three offender meaning he is considered a high risk to re-offend and required by law to verify his address every 90 days with law enforcement. "Lanham was convicted of the assault and sexual abuse of a 69-year-old woman in 1987. New York's sex offender registry exists because Richard Lanham's neighbors have every right to know he's there, that he's a level three offender, and that they should be vigilant," District Attorney Spota said.

Judge Barbara Kahn (second floor of the courthouse) in Riverhead will call the court calendar at 9:30 am.



SCDA COMMUNICATIONS

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Defendants are entitled to a fair trial with the burden on the government to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.