



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

Three admit to stealing thousands of pounds Of metal from specialized Franklin firm

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The ring leader and two accomplices in an 8-month series of thefts of 100 tons of high-grade industrial aluminum, valued at more than \$350,000, from a local company, pled guilty to theft, accessory and breaking and entering charges on Wednesday, March 11, 2015, according to Norfolk DA Michael W. Morrissey.

"Detectives from the Franklin Police Department invested tremendous effort investigating these thefts and putting this case together, executing numerous search warrants and collecting the body of evidence that led to these guilty pleas" District Attorney Morrissey said. "This case and the resulting admissions are the product of very good police work."

David Devine, a former employee of the firm and the ring leader, pled guilty to 10 counts of breaking and entering and one count of larceny of property valued over \$250 (by single, ongoing scheme.) He was sentenced to 2 to 3 years in the State Prison, followed by 5 years of probation supervision. He was taken into custody at the courthouse. While on probation, he is ordered to remain drug free and submit to random drug testing. He must maintain employment and stay away from the victimized company.

Devine used his knowledge of the company's hours, operations and security to repeatedly disarm the facility's alarm system during off hours, then steal quantities of aluminum so large they had to be loaded into rented box trucks with a fork lift. The thefts remained undetected due to the enormous volume of metal processed at the facility.

Co-defendant Leana Schwippert, who is currently serving a 3 to 4 year State Prison sentence on out of Bristol Superior Court on heroin charges, was given 5 years of probation supervision following her release from state prison. She pled guilty to accessory after the fact for acting on Devine's behalf to sell the stolen materials at area scrap metal facilities. She must report to Norfolk Superior court probation within 48 hours of her release from prison, proceed to live in a sober house, remain drug and alcohol free and find and maintain employment.

Steve Fuller, who admitted to breaking into the facility with Devine on one occasion, received 3 years of probation supervision, including orders that he remaining employed, drug free and submit to drug testing.

Co-defendant John McCartney did not change his plea today and is due back in Norfolk Superior Court May 4, 2015. The change of plea by his co-defendants does not disturb the Constitutional presumption of his innocence.