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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PETER BONAVIDA PLEADS GUILTY TO FENTANYL SALES
AND CONSPIRACY CHARGES**

Kingston, NY—On February 26, 2024, Peter Bonavita, age 49, of Kingston, pleaded guilty to charges of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree and Conspiracy in the Fourth Degree. The charges arose from conduct charged in two separate indictments.

The indictment charging the narcotics sales arose out of a lengthy investigation by New York State Police's VGNET who executed a search warrant in December 2021 and uncovered fentanyl and a firearm at 63 Fairview Avenue in the City of Kingston.

The Conspiracy charge arose out of an investigation conducted by the Ulster County Sheriff's Office Corrections Intelligence Unit and Corrections K9 Unit in collaboration with Ulster County Sheriff's Detectives Unit, Ulster Regional Gang Enforcement Narcotics Team (U.R.G.E.N.T.), and NY/NJ HIDTA, through which Bonavita was identified as one of eleven individuals who engaged in drug trafficking in the Ulster County Jail in 2023.

The defendant is scheduled to be sentenced on May 4, 2024, before visiting Judge James Farrell. This case is being prosecuted by **Assistant District Attorney Tara Waters**. The defendant is represented by Marlborough attorney Matthew Mahan.

The Ulster County DA's Office and all local law enforcement agencies are united in the effort to reduce the sales and distribution of these highly dangerous drugs which continue to cause overdoses and deaths. Community support and involvement are necessary to achieve a significant reduction in Opioid-related tragedies. If you see something, please say something because someone's life might depend on it.

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If you or a loved one is dealing with substance use disorder of any kind, the Ulster County Sheriff's Office Opioid Response as County Law Enforcement (ORACLE) Initiative is nationally recognized in treating substance use disorder without judgment and provides a community response.

The ORACLE hotline is (888) 996-0940 and can be emailed at

oracle@co.ulster.ny.us