

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

September 7, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Third Defendant in the University of Rochester Student Kidnapping Case,  
Samantha Hughes Pleads Guilty to Kidnapping in the Second Degree**

Rochester, NY- Today, 20 year old Samantha Hughes pled guilty to Kidnapping in the Second Degree for her role in the abduction of two University of Rochester students. In front of Supreme Court Justice, Alex R. Renzi, Hughes described how she enticed in text message conversations, the two students to allow the women to drive them to an off campus party on Harvest Street. Samantha Hughes further admitted to the court that she knowingly deceived the students as she was fully aware that upon arrival at 22 Harvest Street, the victims would be assaulted and held against their will.

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

“Today, Samantha Hughes took responsibility for her role in the December 5, 2015 abduction of two innocent University of Rochester students. As a result, Hughes will spend 15 years in NYS prison,” said Assistant District Attorney Matthew Schwartz. “We have a strong case against all of the individuals charged in this extremely disturbing and heinous crime and we look forward to presenting our case with respect to the remaining defendants who will stand trial on October 31, 2016.”

Samantha Hughes will be sentenced by Supreme Court Justice Alex R. Renzi on November 23, 2016 at 9:30am. As a part of the plea agreement, Hughes will spend 15 years in state prison with 5 years post release supervision. In addition, she waived her right to an appeal.

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