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PRESS RELEASE

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GUILTY PLEAS ENTERED IN FEDERAL BANK ROBBERY CASE

Earlier today, **Erik Michael Mathis**, 19, and **Mondreon Yuson Haywood**, 21, both residents of Albuquerque, entered guilty pleas to federal bank robbery charges before United States Magistrate Judge Robert Hayes Scott pursuant to plea agreements with the United States Attorney's Office. Mathis and Haywood have been detained since they were arrested on June 25, 2010, and will remain in custody pending sentencing hearings, which have yet to be scheduled. At sentencing, Mathis and Haywood each face up to twenty-five years imprisonment, a fine not to exceed \$250,000, and up to five years supervised release.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said the Mathis and Haywood were charged with robbing the Compass Bank branch located at 6001 Academy Road NE in Albuquerque on June 25, 2010. According to the criminal complaints filed against the two bank robbers, Mathis and Haywood entered the bank together at approximately 9:30 a.m. on June 25, 2010 and approached separate bank tellers with verbal demands for cash. In their plea agreements, Mathis and Haywood admitted that Haywood brandished a pair

of scissors at the teller when he demanded cash. Mathis and Haywood fled the bank on foot after the tellers provided them cash totaling \$10,518.00.

The complaints allege that, based on a tip from a reliable source, officers of the Albuquerque Police Department (APD) went to the vicinity of 4537 Samara Road NW in Albuquerque where they observed two men fitting the descriptions of the robbers (the suspects) get into a vehicle; drive to 4537 Samara Road NW (the residence); and pull into that property. When the APD officers detained the suspects and the vehicle, they observed a pair of scissors on the dashboard of the vehicle. APD officers continued their investigation by arranging for two bank employees to observe the suspects from a distance. They arrested the suspects after both bank employees positively identified the suspects as the men who robbed the bank.

The APD officers identified the suspects as Mathis and Haywood and learned that Mathis resided at the residence. After obtaining permission from the homeowner to clear the residence, the officers observed a large amount of money spread out on a bed in Mathis' bedroom. The APD officers and agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) recovered more than \$10,000 and other evidence related to the bank robbery from Mathis' bedroom when they executed a search warrant at the residence later that day.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jack E. Burkhead and was investigated by the APD and FBI.

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