



Department of Justice

United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton
Middle District of Florida

Tampa	Orlando	Jacksonville	Ocala	Fort Myers
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE			CONTACT: STEVE COLE	
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http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/flm/pr			FAX: (813) 274-6300	

BAKER COUNTY BANK ROBBER PLEADS GUILTY

Jacksonville, Florida - United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton today announced that Jabari Hird (age 29, of Orlando), has pleaded guilty to bank robbery and carrying a firearm during a bank robbery. Hird faces a maximum penalty of life in federal prison. A sentencing date has not been set.

According to court documents, in early April 2005 Rasheed Silvera and Jabari Hird agreed to rob the Mercantile Bank in Glen St. Mary, Florida. On April 8, 2005, Hird cased the bank, entering the bank and approaching the teller counter supposedly to ask for driving directions. The bank surveillance camera captured Hird speaking with the teller. Hird then left the bank, and told Silvera that it was an acceptable target for a robbery.

In preparation to rob the Mercantile Bank, Hird and Silvera obtained jackets, guns, shirts to cover their faces, black gloves, and pillow cases. On April 12, 2005, they stole a green Honda and parked another vehicle, an SUV, in a residential area nearby the Mercantile Bank to be used as a "get away" car. Silvera and Hird then traveled to the bank in the green Honda and parked across the street to wait for the bank to open. While Silvera and Hird were waiting, an individual approached the green Honda and spoke with Hird. Silvera and Hird decided not to rob the Mercantile Bank and began looking for another target.

Silvera and Hird drove by the Country Federal Credit Union, located at 6746 E.

Mount Vernon Street in Glen St. Mary, Florida, and decided to rob instead. They ran up a wooden ramp leading up to the front doors of the credit union and entered with their faces covered. Hird pointed a semiautomatic pistol at the three tellers and told the three tellers to do exactly what he asked if they ever wanted to see their children again. When one of the tellers attempted to flee out of the back door, Hird grabbed her and dragged her back to where the others were on the floor. Silvera and Hird opened the Country Federal Credit Union safe and stole \$147,411.11.

This case was investigated in a joint effort by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Baker County Sheriff's Office. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys A. Tysen Duva and Jay Taylor.