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News Release

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Man indicted for robbing Edina bank

A federal grand jury this week indicted a 21-year-old man in connection with the April 23, 2008, holdup of a TCF Bank in Edina. Dante Kenneth Benson-Henry, unknown address, was charged May 19 with one count of armed bank robbery and one count of use of a firearm during a crime of violence.

Benson-Henry's indictment alleges that on April 23 he did by force, violence and intimidation take approximately \$5,150 from the TCF Bank, located at 6775 York Ave., and in committing such offense did assault and put in jeopardy the life of a person by the use of a dangerous weapon.

The indictment also alleges that Benson-Henry did knowingly carry and use a .357 revolver during the bank robbery.

According to a Federal Bureau of Investigation affidavit, the robber entered the bank, located inside a Cub Foods store, at approximately 2:30 p.m. He approached a teller and placed a note on the counter that stated "This is a holdup. I have a gun. 100s, 50s and 20s only, put the money on the counter and act normal." The teller complied, and the robber grabbed the cash, walked calmly out of the bank and left on foot.

Shortly after the robbery, law enforcement observed a man matching the description of the robber acting suspiciously as he was driving southbound on France Avenue through the intersection of 84th Street. The officers attempted to conduct a traffic stop to question the individual, but the vehicle accelerated and fled. Police pursued and chased the suspect at speeds in excess of 80 mph.

Officers forced the vehicle to a stop at the intersection of Pioneer Trail and South Highway 169. The man fled on foot, but was chased down by police and was arrested trying to gain entry into a residence. The suspect was later identified as Benson-Henry.

Police recovered from Benson-Henry a .357 revolver, and seized items from his vehicle,

including the cash and additional clothing that matched those described in the bank robbery.

If convicted, Benson-Henry faces a potential maximum penalty of 25 years in prison on the bank robbery charge and seven years on the firearm charge. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge.

This case is the result of an investigation by the FBI and the Edina Police Department, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Nancy E. Brasel and Erica H. MacDonald.

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by the defendant. The defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.