



**United States Department of Justice  
United States Attorney's Office  
District of Minnesota**

**Frank J. Magill,  
United States Attorney**

David Anderson, Public Affairs Specialist  
(612) 664-5684; cell: (612) 730-2251

# **News Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2009

## **Fridley man sentenced for bank robbery**

A 40-year-old Fridley man was sentenced yesterday in federal court in connection with the April 25, 2008, heist of a TCF Bank in Fridley.

On Jan. 13 in St. Paul, United States District Court Judge Donovan Frank sentenced Steven Walter Smialek to 68 months in prison and three years supervised release on one count of bank robbery. Smialek was indicted on May 12, 2008, and pleaded guilty on July 24, 2008.

According to Smialek's plea agreement, on April 25 he did by force, violence and intimidation take approximately \$1,540 from a teller at the bank, located at 5205 Central Ave. N.E.

According to a Federal Bureau of Investigation affidavit, the robber entered the bank at approximately 6:55 p.m. and stood in line for an open teller. Once a teller was available, he approached the teller, placed a note on the counter, and said something to the effect of, "I'm armed and hand over the money."

The teller complied and gave cash to the robber, who grabbed it and left the bank. Subsequent to the robbery, photographs of the robber were aired in the local media. Police received numerous tips by concerned citizens stating that the robber appeared to be Smialek.

Smialek was arrested without incident April 28 outside of his place of employment in Coon Rapids. During an executed search warrant of Smialek's residence, police found clothing worn by and items used by the bank robber.

This case was the result of an investigation by the FBI and the police departments of Coon Rapids and Fridley, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Nathan P. Petterson.