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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, March 10, 2009

St. Paul man indicted for bank robbery

A 25-year-old St. Paul man was indicted today for allegedly robbing a Guaranty Bank in Maplewood on Feb. 10.

James Matthew Hood was charged with one count of bank robbery. Hood's indictment alleges that on Feb. 10, he did by force, violence and intimidation take approximately \$2,355 from a victim teller at the bank, located at 2501 White Bear Ave. N.

According to a Federal Bureau of Investigation affidavit, at approximately 1 p.m., the bank, located inside a Rainbow Foods store, was robbed. The robber walked through the grocery store, placed some items in a shopping cart and went into the bank. The robber gave a teller a note that stated, "I have a gun - you know what to do - 100's, 50's, 20's no boobie traps or you will regret it." The robber said, "I have a gun; you have ten seconds; be quick."

The teller complied and gave the robber cash. The robber fled on foot.

The Maplewood Police Department responded to the robbery and recovered a winter coat in the parking lot. In the pocket of the coat was a large amount of cash, a fake gun and a cellular telephone. On the phone, police found stored telephone numbers and video footage of a man, who witnesses identified as the robber.

If convicted, Hood faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the FBI, the Maplewood Police Department and the St. Paul Police Department. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nathan P. Petterson.

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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 a defendant. A defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.

