

NEWS

United States Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey
970 Broad Street, Seventh Floor
Newark, New Jersey 07102



Ralph J. Marra, Jr., Acting U.S. Attorney

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Contact:

Michael Drewniak, Public Affairs Officer
973-645-2888

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Bank Robber Tracked Down by Payroll Check Sentenced to 63 Months in Federal Prison

(More)

Public Affairs Office
Michael Drewniak, PAO

973-645-2888

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CAMDEN, N.J. – A Springfield Gardens, N.Y. man was sentenced today to 63 months in federal prison for robbing a Wachovia Bank branch in Kenilworth last year, Acting U.S. Attorney Ralph J. Marra, Jr. announced.

U.S. District Judge Robert B. Kugler also ordered John Henderson, 44, to pay \$3,241 in restitution to Wachovia Bank for the armed robbery he committed on April 8, 2008.

On Oct. 31, 2008, Henderson pleaded guilty to a one-count criminal Information charging him with the robbery. At the plea hearing, Henderson admitted going to the teller counter and presenting a payroll check to be cashed. The teller refused to honor the check and Henderson placed a handgun on the counter and demanded the bank teller to “give me all the money, don’t make any moves, and don’t press the button,” according to a criminal Complaint in the case. The teller then handed over \$3,241 in cash.

Ten days later the same bank teller recognized a similar payroll check when another person presented it to be cashed. Through an investigation, Kenilworth police officers determined that the payroll check came from a distribution company in Union where Henderson had worked and recently been fired. The company’s owner identified Henderson from camera surveillance photos taken during the robbery, according to the criminal Complaint.

The payroll check Henderson presented at the bank was in the amount of \$111.28, which he had received shortly after he was fired from the company, according to the criminal Complaint.

Henderson was arrested by Kenilworth police on April 30 in Brooklyn and has been in custody since.

In determining the sentence, Judge Kugler consulted the United States Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant’s criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, was not bound by those guidelines in determining the sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all of that time.

Marra credited the work of Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Weyan Dunn, as well as members of the Kenilworth Police Department under the direction of Chief William Dowd for their assistance in the investigation.

Henderson was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Justin W. Arnold.

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Defense Attorney: Lisa Mack, Esq., federal Public Defender’s Office

