

NEWS

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Carney's Point Man Sentenced to 64 Months in Prison for His Role in Five Southern N.J. Bank Robberies

(More)

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CAMDEN – A Carney's Point man was sentenced to 64 months in federal prison today for his role in planning and committing five bank robberies in southern N.J., U.S. Attorney Paul J. Fishman announced.

U.S. District Judge Robert B. Kugler also ordered Howard Hiles, 34, to pay \$12,527 in restitution and to serve three years of supervised release upon the completion of his prison term.

Hiles pleaded guilty before Judge Kugler on Aug. 14, 2009, to a one-count Information that charged him with bank robbery, specifically for the April 18, 2009, robbery of a Sun National Bank branch in Vineland of approximately \$8,957. Hiles, however, also admitted committing four additional bank robberies, and all of the conduct was taken into consideration by Judge Kugler at sentencing.

At his plea hearing, Hiles admitted that on April 18, 2009, while at home with his girlfriend, Jenny Hedden, 30, of Carney's Point, and Dustin Corney, 32, of Hopewell, Cumberland County, they all planned to rob a bank. As part of their plan to commit the bank robbery, Hiles admitted that Hedden wrote a demand note that said something to the effect of "This is a robbery. Put all the money in the bag." Hiles admitted that he then took the demand note and Hedden's car keys and left with Corney and drove to a Sun National Bank branch in Vineland. Hiles admitted that Corney went into the bank, wearing a motorcycle helmet, and passed the demand note to a teller. Hiles admitted that Corney fled the bank and returned to the car with money. The two men then returned to the house and dumped out a pile on money onto a table, Hiles admitted. Hiles admitted that Hedden and Corney then took some of the proceeds of the bank robbery and bought heroin.

In addition to the April 18 bank robbery, Hiles admitted committing the following bank robberies:

- May 4, 2009, along with Hedden robbed the Harvest Community Bank in Pennsville, of approximately \$1,500;
- May 11, 2009, along with Corney robbed the TD Bank in Gloucester Township, of \$385;
- May 11, 2009, along with Hedden and Corney robbed the Ocean City Home Bank in Marmora, of \$1,668;
- May 18, 2009, along with Hedden, robbed of the Newfield Bank in Hopewell Township, of \$1,685.

Hiles admitted that a portion of the proceeds from each bank robberies was used to purchase heroin.

All three defendants were arrested at different locations on May 18. Hedden pleaded before Judge Kugler to one count of bank robbery on Aug. 3 and Corney pleaded guilty to one count of bank robbery on Oct. 23. Both defendants are scheduled to be sentenced on Jan 28.

In determining the actual sentence, Judge Kugler consulted the advisory U.S. 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, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

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

Fishman credited Special Agents of the FBI's Atlantic City Resident Agency and South Jersey Resident Agency, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Weysan Dun in Newark and Special Agent in Charge Janice K. Fedarczyk in Philadelphia, respectively; Troopers with the New Jersey State Police, under the direction of Col. Joseph R. Fuentes, Superintendent; and police officers with the Police Departments of Pennsville, Gloucester Township and Vineland, with the investigation.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jason M. Richardson of the Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: Maggie Moy, Esq. Assistant Federal Public Defender