



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

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**ALBUQUERQUE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ROBBING  
NEW MEXICO BANK & TRUST IN MARCH 2012**

ALBUQUERQUE – This morning in federal court, Jacob Balducci, 35, of Albuquerque, pled guilty to an indictment charging him with bank robbery under a plea agreement with the U.S. Attorney’s Office. At sentencing, Balducci faces a maximum penalty of 20 years of imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. Balducci has been in federal custody since his arrest on March 17, 2012, and remains detained pending his sentencing hearing, which has not yet been set.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Balducci pled guilty to robbing the New Mexico Bank & Trust (Bank) located at 3701 Fourth Street NW on March 17, 2012. According to the criminal complaint, Balducci drove up to the Bank’s drive-through window and presented the teller with a note claiming that he had wired four plastic bombs to the bank and threatening to detonate the bombs unless he received cash. The bank teller complied with the demands and Balducci was last seen driving westbound from the bank.

Based on a tip from a confidential source, officers of the Albuquerque Police Department went to the vicinity of 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Coal Avenue NE, where they executed a stop on a vehicle that fit the description of the vehicle used by the bank robber. Based on eye witness description of the bank robber, officers determined that the driver, Balducci, was the individual who robbed the bank. In addition, a witness that was at the scene of the bank robbery positively identified Balducci as the bank robber. Subsequent to his arrest, Balducci admitted robbing the Bank.

Under the terms of his plea agreement, Balducci is required to pay full restitution to the Bank.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Albuquerque Police Department, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jon K. Stanford.

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