



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of Arkansas*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 15, 2006

CONTACT: Bud Cummins
United States
Attorney
501-340-2650

SECOND ARMED ROBBER PLEADS GUILTY IN PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS CASE

Little Rock - Bud Cummins, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, announced that Colby Cantrail Dent, a/k/a "Tiger," age 26, of Forrest City, Arkansas, entered two pleas of guilty for his role in the robbery of the Unique Fashions business in Forrest City, Arkansas, in proceedings before United States District Judge James M. Moody, Jr. today. Dent entered guilty pleas to Conspiracy to Interrupt Interstate Commerce by Robbery and to Conspiracy to Brandish Firearms during a Crime of Violence.

The guilty plea includes Dent's agreement to recommendations for sentencing enhancements for his armed abduction of the victims, for obstruction of the investigation for Dent's destruction of evidence in this case, as well as the car-jacking of the victims' vehicle leading to the hostage stand-off with Forrest City Police Department and officers from the St. Francis County Sheriff's Office.

The investigation was conducted by the Forrest City Police Department, the St. Francis County Sheriff's Office, the Arkansas State Police and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Senior Litigation Counsel Kevin Alexander presented this case for the United States. "The officers, agents, and prosecutor in this case did a fabulous job," stated Cummins.

"Here is a great demonstration of how enforcement of federal firearms laws can reduce violent crime and ultimately protect our citizens," stated Cummins. "If we will aggressively pursue the laws already on the books, we can hold violent offenders accountable for their outrageous conduct."

According to the Indictment and proceedings in this case, several months of planning and one failed attempt culminated in the attempted armed robbery of Unique Fashions, a retail business located in Forrest City, Arkansas on November 15, 2003. Dent and co-defendant Christopher Adrian Jones, while wearing masks and armed with handguns, conducted a home invasion at the Forrest City residence of the owners of Unique Fashions. After binding the victims eyes, hands and feet with duct tape, the store owner and her then seven year old child were abducted at gunpoint by Dent and Jones from their Forrest City home. Dent and Jones forced the victims into the family's vehicle at gunpoint. They were taken to the Unique Fashions, located at 404 Rosser Street North in Forrest City, in order to rob the store's money from the safe. Jones forced the store owner to open the store and the store's safe at gunpoint while leaving Dent in the van with the child hostage. Forrest City Police Department officers interrupted the after-hours nighttime robbery and a stand-off followed between Jones, his hostage and the police. Jones ultimately surrendered to the police that night. Dent was apprehended two days later and confessed his planning and participation in this crime to investigators. According to Dent, this robbery had been planned for some months leading up to the events of November 15, 2003.

Dent was previously convicted and served time for felony Robbery, Residential Burglary and Theft by Receiving in Arkansas State Court proceedings.

Dent is expected to be sentenced by District Judge Moody in the next 45 days. Conviction for Conspiracy to Interrupt Interstate Commerce by Robbery carries a statutory range of not more than 20 years imprisonment, and/or a fine of up to \$ 250,000. Conviction for Conspiracy to Brandish Firearms during a Crime of Violence requires a statutory minimum mandatory term of 7 years imprisonment to be served consecutively to any other sentence imposed. A statutory maximum term of life imprisonment applies to the firearms charge to which Dent now stands convicted.

Dent's co-defendant, Christopher Adrian Jones, a/k/a "Sly G," also of Forrest City, was sentenced to consecutive terms of life imprisonment without parole by District Judge Moody on August 15, 2006, for his role in these crimes.

This investigation is designated as a Project Safe Neighborhoods firearms initiative case. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a federal initiative aimed at reducing gun crime by networking local prosecutors and law enforcement with federal counterparts. Those prosecuted under federal statutes serve longer sentences partly due to the fact that there is no parole in the federal system.

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For more information on Project Safe Neighborhoods visit www.psn.gov.