



U.S. Department of Justice

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AURORA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO SIX BANK ROBBERIES IN NORTHERN ILLINOIS

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; THOMAS J. KNEIR, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and STEVEN PUGH, Chief of the Rockford Police Department, today made the following announcement:

OLLIE HOWELL, 29 (DOB: 12/22/74), formerly of Aurora, Illinois, pled guilty yesterday in federal court in Chicago before District Judge Blanche M. Manning to the robbery of the Amcore Bank, N.A., located at 1480 South Alpine Road, Rockford, Illinois, on November 17, 2003, and five other bank robberies in Northern Illinois.

In pleading guilty, Howell admitted that on November 17, 2003, he robbed the Amcore Bank in part, in order to satisfy a drug-related debt Howell owed. In addition to the robbery of the Amcore Bank, Howell admitted to committing the following bank robberies:

October 3, 2003	National City Bank, 3879 East Main Street, St. Charles
October 7, 2003	Harris Bank, 185 South Randall Road, Batavia
October 22, 2003	Great Bank of Algonquin, 234 South Randall Road, Algonquin
October 30, 2003	Old Second National Bank, 1230 North Orchard Road, Aurora
November 12, 2003	Old Second National Bank, 555 Redwood Drive, Aurora

On November 21, 2003, Wisconsin State Patrol troopers arrested Howell in Mequon, Wisconsin. Howell has been held without bond since his arrest. Howell was initially charged in an indictment with robbing the Amcore Bank. On September 14, 2004, the United States Attorney filed a Superseding Information charging Howell with all six bank robberies.

Sentencing for Howell will be on December 10, 2004, at 11:30 a.m. Howell faces a maximum potential penalty on each of six charges of 20 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, for a total potential sentence of 120 years in prison and a \$1,500,000 fine. In addition, Howell will be subject to a period of supervised release of 3 to 5 years following imprisonment, and full restitution. The actual sentence will be determined by the United States District Court, guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The case was investigated by Rockford Office of the FBI and the Rockford Police Department, with assistance from the Wisconsin State Patrol. The case is being prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney John G. McKenzie.

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