



U.S. Department of Justice

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SOUTH BELOIT RESIDENT SENTENCED TO OVER 10 YEARS IN PRISON FOR ROBBERY OF THE BLACKHAWK BANK IN ROSCOE, ILLINOIS

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; together with ROBERT D. GRANT, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, RICHARD A. MEYERS, Winnebago County Sheriff, JAMIE EVANS, Chief of the Roscoe Police Department, and SAM LATHROP, Chief of the Beloit, Wisconsin Police Department, today made the following announcement:

Today, **TREMAIN R. GORDON**, 32, South Beloit, Illinois, was sentenced in Rockford federal court to 127 months in prison, without parole, for his role in the robbery of the Blackhawk Bank, 5206 Elevator Road, Roscoe, Illinois, on August 14, 2008. United States District Judge Philip G. Reinhard also ordered Gordon to serve 3 years of supervised release after his prison term and to pay approximately \$65,000 in restitution to Blackhawk Bank. Gordon was convicted of bank robbery on July 15, 2009 after a three day jury trial.

In addition to Gordon's conviction, on February 23, 2009, **EMILY M. JONES**, 21, South Beloit, Illinois pleaded guilty to the robbery of the Blackhawk Bank. On August 10, 2008, Jones was sentenced to 48 months in prison. In pleading guilty to the bank robbery, Jones admitted that she met Gordon approximately 1 year prior to August 2008. In April of 2008, Jones and Gordon moved in together in South Beloit, Illinois. Beginning approximately 6 months prior to August 2008, Jones and Gordon began discussing robbing the Blackhawk Bank in Roscoe, Illinois where Jones worked as a teller. Approximately three weeks prior to August 14, 2008, Jones discussed specific plans for robbing Blackhawk Bank with Gordon. According to the plea agreement, Jones provided Gordon with the information about when the best time would be to commit the robbery and Gordon found the people to commit the robbery. At approximately 12:00 p.m. on August 14, 2008, Gordon came to pick Jones up from the Blackhawk Bank. Jones said that she and Gordon went to a park and talked about trying to get the "Fed" shipment or the money from the teller drawers. Jones told Gordon to make sure that he told the person who came into the bank to bring a bag and wear a disguise.

After Gordon left the bank, a black male came into the bank and approached Jones's teller window. Jones learned after her arrest that the black male was co-defendant, Ramon Mitchell. Mitchell gave Jones a multi-colored red and white backpack and piece of paper. The piece of paper said "give me all of your money and all of the money in the drive through." After reading the note, Jones put the money from her teller drawer into the backpack. Jones then walked with the backpack to the drive through counter. When Jones went back to drive through counter she showed another teller (hereinafter "Teller B") the note in the backpack and told Teller B that Jones was being robbed. Jones and Teller B placed the bank's money into the backpack. Mitchell then left the bank.

In her plea agreement, Jones stated that at approximately 6 p.m. that evening, Gordon picked Jones up from the Blackhawk State Bank and they went to a house in Beloit to pick up their share of the bank robbery proceeds. Gordon went inside the back porch of the residence and came out with a black backpack which contained approximately \$20,000. Jones stated that she and Gordon hid the money at their residence in South Beloit for four days until she allowed Federal Bureau of Investigation agents to search her residence. During the search of Jones's residence on August 18, 2008, Federal agents located and seized approximately \$20,000 in cash hidden in a vent in a bathroom in the residence.

Two other individuals involved in the bank robbery previously pleaded guilty and were also sentenced to prison. **RAMON V. MITCHELL**, 24, Beloit, Wisconsin, pleaded guilty on May 15, 2009 and was sentenced to 90 months in prison on September 3, 2009. **ERIC D. CARTER**, 21, Beloit, Wisconsin, pleaded guilty on July 9, 2009 and was sentenced to 36 months in prison on September 11, 2009.

The case was investigated by the Rockford office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department, the Roscoe Police Department, and the Beloit (Wisconsin) Police Department. The case was prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorneys Joseph C. Pedersen and Brendan Maher.

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