NEWS

United States Department of Justice U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey 401 Market Street, Fourth Floor Camden, New Jersey 08101



Ralph J. Marra, Jr., Acting U.S. Attorney

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Assistant U.S. Attorney JASON M. RICHARDSON 856-968-4869 jone0708.rel FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 8, 2009

Westville Man Admits Committing Four Bank Robberies

(More)

Greg Reinert, PAO
Public Affairs Office

856-757-5233 973-645-2888

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CAMDEN – A Westville man pleaded guilty today to committing four bank robberies in Camden and Gloucester Counties, Acting U.S. Attorney Ralph J. Marra, Jr., announced.

Phillip Jones, 42, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Robert B. Kugler to a one-count Information that charges him with bank robbery. Judge Kugler continued the defendant's detention and scheduled sentencing for Oct. 15.

At his plea hearing, Jones admitted that in less than a three-week period, in April and May of 2009, he robbed four banks by presenting demand notes to bank tellers, in which he claimed to have a gun. Furthermore, Jones admitted that in one of those robberies he displayed the butt of a handgun that was tucked into his waistband.

Jones admitted committing the following bank robberies;

- 1. April 25, 2009, St. Edmonds Savings Bank in Deptford, of approximately \$4,607;
- 2. May 5, 2009, Sun National Bank in Gloucester Township, of approximately \$1,133;
- 3. May 11, 2009, TD Bank in Glassboro, of approximately \$292;
- 4. May 13, 2009, TD Bank in Woodbury, of approximately \$2,233.

Jones admitted that in each of the robberies he placed the money in a black zippered notebook pad prior to flee the banks.

Jones was arrested on May 15 as he left his apartment by Police Officers with the Westville Police Department. The arrest was in part due to a caller's tip after viewing a news broadcast which included a photograph of the suspect and the offer of a reward for information leading the suspect's arrest.

At the time of Jones's arrest, police recovered a black zippered notebook pad, approximately \$1,800 and a replica pistol.

The charge of bank robbery carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000 or twice the aggregate loss to the victims or gain to the defendants.

In determining an actual sentence, Judge Kugler will consult 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.

Marra credited Special Agents of the FBI's South Jersey Resident Agency, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Janice K. Fedarcyk in Philadelphia, the Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Prosecutor Sean F. Dalton, Camden County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Prosecutor Warren W. Faulk, and the Police Departments of Westville, Woodbury, Glassboro, Deptford and Gloucester Township with the investigation leading to the guilty plea.

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