



***United States Attorney
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 23, 2008**

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**TWO CHARGED FOR ALLEGED
ARMED ROBBERY SPREE IN NEW YORK CITY**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, WILLIAM G. McMAHON, Special Agent-in-Charge of the New York Field Division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives ("ATF"), and RAYMOND W. KELLY, Police Commissioner of the City of New York ("NYPD"), announced today the Indictment of ANTHONY STEELE, a/k/a "Tone," a/k/a "Fat Boy," and ZACHARY BALLARD, a/k/a "Zachary Balard," a/k/a "Little Zachary," a/k/a "Boobie," on charges relating to their alleged roles in several armed robberies of commercial businesses in New York City. According to previously filed Complaints and the eleven-count Indictment returned today in Manhattan federal court:

In October 2007, BALLARD and STEELE robbed at gunpoint several commercial businesses located in various boroughs. Both defendants are alleged to have robbed a Deluxe Storage store in Brooklyn, a Sears store in the Bronx, and a Family Dollar store in the Bronx; STEELE alone is additionally charged with the robbery of a Duane Reade store in Manhattan and White Castle in the Bronx; and BALLARD alone is charged with the robbery of a Kentucky Fried Chicken in the Bronx. BALLARD and STEELE entered commercial establishments, brandished firearms, and robbed the stores of cash.

ALLEGED ROBBERY LOCATIONS BY DEFENDANT

<u>Defendants</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Count</u>
BALLARD & STEELE	Deluxe Storage	945 Atlantic Avenue Brooklyn, New York	10/07/07	1
BALLARD & STEELE	Sears	2980 3rd Avenue Bronx, New York	10/19/07	2, 3
BALLARD & STEELE	Family Dollar	4226 3rd Avenue Bronx, New York	10/27/07	4, 5
BALLARD	Kentucky Fried Chicken	5625 Broadway Bronx, New York	10/25/07	6, 7
STEELE	Duane Reade	617 West 181 st Street New York, New York	10/14/07	8, 9
STEELE	White Castle	33 West Fordham Road Bronx, New York	10/19/07	10, 11

For example, STEELE and BALLARD entered the Sears on October 19, 2007, posing as customers. One of the defendants asked to speak to a manager about purchasing a television before pointing a gun at the employee and asking to be taken to the manager's office. Once in the manager's office, where money was being counted, one of the defendants pointed a gun at the manager and told him to put the money, approximately \$25,000, in a bag, which he did. The two also took money from the store's cash registers before fleeing.

Each defendant was charged with conspiracy. BALLARD was charged with three counts of robbery and three counts of brandishing a firearm during a robbery, and STEELE was charged with four counts of robbery and four counts of brandishing a firearm during a robbery. The conspiracy and robbery counts each carry a maximum prison sentence of 20 years. The firearms counts carry a mandatory minimum prison sentence of 7 years and a maximum sentence of life the a first conviction, and a mandatory minimum sentence of 25 years and a maximum sentence of life for any subsequent convictions.

STEELE, 25, of Brooklyn, New York, and BALLARD, 27, of Brooklyn, New York, are presently remanded, awaiting trial. The case has been assigned to United States District Judge JED S.

RAKOFF.

Mr. GARCIA praised the outstanding investigative work of the ATF and the NYPD.

Assistant United States Attorney BENJAMIN A. NAFTALIS is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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