

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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CRIMINAL DOCKET NO: 14-200

v.

*

SECTION: "J"

DERRICK MORGAN,
aka "Cheyenne"

*

* * *

FACTUAL BASIS¹

At approximately 10:38 AM on Wednesday, September 3, 2014, the defendant, who was dressed as a female, entered the Fidelity Homestead Savings Bank located at 321 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana and robbed it of \$9,533.00, U.S. currency, by force, violence and intimidation, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §2113(a) and (d). Deposits made at Fidelity Homestead Savings Bank are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

The defendant entered the bank through the St. Charles Avenue entrance and moved to an island used to prepare deposit slips. He soon thereafter went to the teller counter, and passed a Fidelity Homestead Savings Bank deposit slip on which was written verbatim, "I have a gun! All money no bank money no silent alarm."

Simultaneous with the written demand, the defendant stated words to the effect, "This is a fucking robbery...give me all your money...no bank money...no alarms," while brandishing a knife. He waived the knife in the direction of the tellers as he uttered the verbal demands, and yelled at a second teller, "Don't press any alarms...I'll cut your fucking face." The first victim teller took cash (\$8,239.00 U.S. currency) from her teller drawer as instructed, and handed it over to the defendant.

¹ This factual basis is not a comprehensive account of every fact developed against the defendant in this matter, nor is it a complete summary of the evidence that would be adduced at trial. Rather, it sets out the essential facts that underlay this defendant's guilty plea.

Morgan then demanded money from a second victim teller, commanding, "Give me the money...if you press the button I will stab you...I have a gun I will shoot you," and continuing to brandish the knife. The second victim teller gave over \$1,294.00. While making demands at the teller counter, the defendant also threatened a personal banker in the bank lobby, admonishing her not to "push any buttons."

According to the victim witnesses, the robber was dressed in a sweaty grey tee shirt, black frame glasses, and a black stocking skull cap. Prior to exiting the bank, the defendant stated, "Ya'll better not call the police...you better wait five minutes before you call, or I will come back and fucking shoot ya'll." Morgan fled the bank on foot, leaving from the St. Charles Avenue door of the bank, carrying the money he robbed in his hand. Members of the FBI's New Orleans Violent Crime Taskforce (NOVCTF) discovered a black skull cap and a pair of Calvin Klein glasses with a dark frame and pink temples on the side walk near 736 Union Street (near the corner of Union Street and Carondelet Street). The referenced hat and glasses meet the description of the same items worn by the robber.

A parking garage security video, from two separate cameras on Carondelet Street depict Morgan moving north on Carondelet Street coming from Union Street. The video demonstrated that the robber took off the referenced stocking skull cap. The video further demonstrated that the robber was still wearing the sweaty grey tee shirt referenced above. The defendant was holding his lower side abdomen with an arm across his body as he walked, as if he was concealing something under his shirt.

On Saturday, September 06, 2014, the FBI case agent, Chuck Williams, received a phone call from Detective Drew Deacon with New Orleans Police Department's Sixth Police

District, who related that Derrick Morgan, a black male, date of birth 06/06/1978, was arrested on charges unrelated to the bank robbery, and confessed to robbing the above referenced bank.

Special Agent Williams responded to the NOPD Sixth District Station on the evening of September 06, 2014, in order to interview Morgan. The agent advised Morgan of his constitution rights by reading FBI form FD-395, prior to conducting the interview. Morgan verbally advised that he understood his rights and then by signing the referenced form.

Morgan confessed that he was in fact the robber. He advised that he is transgender and dresses like a woman. Morgan admitted the following: he entered the bank, and moved to an island where he wrote a demand on the back of a deposit slip. There were only three women in the bank, two tellers and one female on the lobby floor. Morgan then moved to the teller counter and provided the demand note to the victim teller. He simultaneously made verbal demands for money, telling the victim teller that he was robbing the bank, and not to give him any "bank money." The term "bank money" was not published in the press release, demonstrating Morgan's unique knowledge as the robber. He further admitted to brandishing a knife while making the written and verbal demands. The defendant provided the knife he used in the bank robbery to NOPD detectives. The knife was taken into NOPD custody as part of a separate investigation. Morgan also said that he told bank personnel that he had a gun and would use it.

Morgan stated that he dropped the pair of Calvin Klein glasses and a black skull cap approximately one block from the bank. He spent all of the remaining money on a hotel room at the Econolodge Motel on Chef Menteur Highway, as well as on clothes and drugs. Morgan recalled that, minus a pack of \$10's that he dropped as he fled the scene, he obtained in excess of \$8,000 in the robbery.

Additionally, Morgan reviewed two still photographs which were obtained from the bank's security system. He conceded that the robber depicted was, in fact, he. Morgan initialed and dated the referenced photos.

DERRICK MORGAN,
aka “Cheyenne”
Defendant

Date _____

MICHAEL E. McMAHON
Assistant United States Attorney

Date _____

GARY V. SCHWABE JR. Date
Attorney for Defendant