

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	*	CRIMINAL NO: 18-076
v.	*	SECTION: "G"
RONALD VANTRESS, JR.	*	VIOLATIONS: 18 U.S.C. § 2113(a)
	*	18 U.S.C. § 2314
	*	18 U.S.C. § 2312
	*	*

FACTUAL BASIS

The above-named defendant, **RONALD VANTRESS, JR.**, has agreed to plead guilty as charged to Count One of the Indictment, in which he is charged with interstate transportation of stolen property; Count Two of the Indictment, in which he is charged with interstate transportation of a stolen motor vehicle; and Count Three of the Indictment, in which he is charged with bank robbery. Should this matter have proceeded to trial, the United States of America would have proven beyond a reasonable doubt, through the introduction of relevant, competent, and admissible testimonial, physical and demonstrative evidence, the following facts to support the allegation against defendant **RONALD VANTRESS, JR.** ("VANTRESS").

Theft of Toyota Camry

On March 20, 2018, **VANTRESS** traveled to the Veterans Ford, located at 3724 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Metairie, Louisiana, and spoke to a salesman ("Victim-1"), who was later interviewed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"). **VANTRESS** informed Victim-1 that he wished to purchase a used car for between \$4,000 to \$5,000 dollars. Victim-1 showed

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VANTRESS a 2009 grey Toyota Camry, VIN 4T4BE46K49R126024 (the "Camry"), which was listed by the dealership for \$9,932. In addition, the Kelley Blue Book value of the car is in excess of \$5,000.

Victim-1 went inside to grab the keys to the Camry, came back outside, opened the doors, and turned the car on for **VANTRESS**. **VANTRESS** told Victim-1 that there was smoke coming out of the tail pipe. Victim-1 walked to the back of the car and did not see any smoke. **VANTRESS** told Victim-1 to stand behind the car while **VANTRESS** got into the drivers' seat, where **VANTRESS** would step on the gas pedal. Victim-1 did so, and **VANTRESS** drove away with the Camry.

FBI agents showed Victim-1 two photographs of **VANTRESS** taken at the below-described robbery at the Gulf Coast Bank and Trust, and Victim-1 positively identified **VANTRESS** as the individual who stole the Camry.

Robbery of Gulf Coast Bank and Trust

On March 21, 2018, **VANTRESS** drove the Camry to Gulf Coast Bank and Trust, located at 201 North Carrollton Ave., New Orleans, Louisiana. At that time, Louisiana license plate YQA489 had been affixed to the Camry. That license plate had been stolen from a parked vehicle located in Metairie, Louisiana prior to that time. The Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office ("JPSO") interviewed the owner of the license plate ("Victim-2"), who stated that she parked her vehicle at a location in Marrero, Louisiana at around 8:00 PM on March 20, 2018 and noticed that the license plate was missing. Victim-2 last saw the license plate on her vehicle earlier that day at around 4:00 PM at her residence in Marrero.

Security footage from the Gulf Coast Bank showed **VANTRESS** entering the bank wearing a neon colored vest, a red button-down shirt with a white long-sleeve undershirt, dark

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jeans, and a Superman logo hat. VANTRESS approached one of the tellers ("Victim-3") and stated "give me all your hundreds now, I have a gun." The teller in the next station ("Victim-4") overheard VANTRESS demanding "all your hundreds," and VANTRESS told Victim-4 "don't you say a word, tell her to give me all her hundreds." Victim-3 handed several hundred dollar bills to VANTRESS, but VANTRESS said "I need more or I'm gonna shoot you." VANTRESS then grabbed the money and fled from the bank. In all, VANTRESS took \$6,600 from the Gulf Coast Bank and Trust. The deposits of the Gulf Coast Bank and Trust were insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

FBI agents reviewed the security footage of the bank, which clearly showed VANTRESS's face, and which was a match to a drivers' license photograph obtained of VANTRESS. In addition, news reports regarding the bank robbery were disseminated, which included photographs of VANTRESS from the security footage. FBI received information from two of VANTRESS's relatives, who identified him from the photographs they saw on the news.

Arrest of VANTRESS in Houston, Texas

On March 23, 2018, members of the FBI in Houston observed VANTRESS getting into the Camry in the vicinity of an apartment complex located at 333 Airtex Blvd, Houston, Texas. Subsequently, FBI agents followed VANTRESS in the Camry to the parking lot of 210 W. Greens Road, Houston, Texas. FBI agents then placed VANTRESS under arrest and seized the Camry.

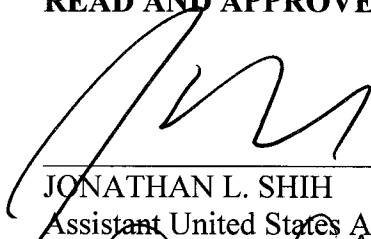
The Camry was later transported back to New Orleans. FBI-New Orleans obtained consent from Veterans Ford to search the Camry. In the search, FBI recovered the following: (1) the stolen license plate bearing number YQA 489, (2) one Gulf Coast Bank and Trust money band dated March 20, 2018; (3) a Superman hat matching the appearance of the hat worn by the robber; (4) one black and white bandana; (5) one empty cell phone box for a 32GB iPhone 7; (6) one

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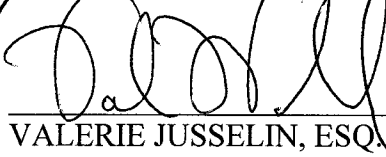
address book belonging to VANTRESS; and (7) contact information for Parole Officer Roosevelt Stevenson.

VANTRESS was also interviewed in Houston after his arrest. First, VANTRESS was provided Miranda warnings and agreed to answer questions. VANTRESS admitted to stealing the Camry. He stated that he went to a dealership and told a salesman that there was smoke coming out of the exhaust pipe. VANTRESS said that he then drove off with the car. VANTRESS also stated that he stole a neon vest from Walmart. VANTRESS further admitted to robbing the Gulf Coast Bank for approximately \$7,000. He stated that he approached a teller, told her to "give me some money, I've got a gun." VANTRESS said that he did not actually have a gun at that time. VANTRESS said that he saw his picture on the news and that he traveled to Houston.

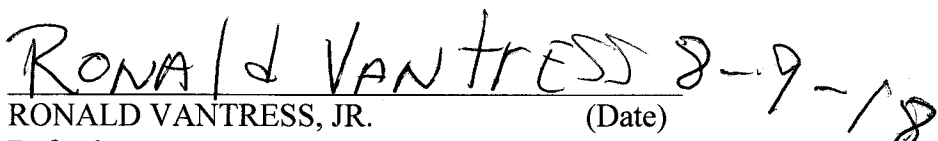
READ AND APPROVED:



JONATHAN L. SHIH (Date) 8/9/18
Assistant United States Attorney



VALERIE JUSELIN, ESQ. (Date) 8-9-18
Attorney for Defendant



RONALD VANTRESS, JR. (Date) 8-9-18
Defendant