

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : Hon. Leda Dunn Wettre
:
v. : Mag. No. 16-8151
:
JERMAINE MASON a/k/a :
"Asim Harris" : **CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**

I, Alexandra Skovira, being duly sworn, state the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief:

SEE ATTACHMENT A

I further state that I am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and that this complaint is based on the following facts:

SEE ATTACHMENT B

continued on the attached page and made a part hereof.

Special Agent Alexandra Skovira
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence,
December 6, 2016 in New Jersey

HONORABLE LEDA DUNN WETTRE
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Signature of Judicial Officer

ATTACHMENT A

COUNT ONE
(Bank Robbery)

On or about October 21, 2016, in Hudson County, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, the defendant

JERMAINE MASON

did, by force and violence, and by intimidation, knowingly take from the person and presence of another, namely, employees of Kearny Bank, located in Harrison, New Jersey, approximately \$1,549 in money belonging to, and in the care, custody, control, management, and possession, of Kearny Bank, the deposits of which were then insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2113(a).

COUNT TWO
(Bank Robbery)

On or about November 3, 2016, in Hudson County, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, the defendant

JERMAINE MASON

did, by force and violence, and by intimidation, knowingly take from the person and presence of another, namely, employees of PNC Bank, located in Jersey City, New Jersey, approximately \$11,890 in money belonging to, and in the care, custody, control, management, and possession, of PNC Bank, the deposits of which were then insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2113(a).

COUNT THREE
(Bank Robbery)

On or about November 17, 2016, in Essex County, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, the defendant

JERMAINE MASON

did, by force and violence, and by intimidation, knowingly take from the person and presence of another, namely, employees of Popular Community Bank, located in Newark, New Jersey, approximately \$440 in money belonging to, and in the care, custody, control, management, and possession, of Popular Community Bank, the deposits of which were then insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2113(a).

COUNT FOUR
(Bank Robbery)

On or about November 18, 2016, in Hudson County, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, the defendant

JERMAINE MASON

did, by force and violence, and by intimidation, knowingly take from the person and presence of another, namely, employees of Provident Bank, located in Jersey City, New Jersey, approximately \$850 in money belonging to, and in the care, custody, control, management, and possession, of Provident Bank, the deposits of which were then insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2113(a).

COUNT FIVE
(Bank Robbery)

On or about November 29, 2016, in Hudson County, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, the defendant

JERMAINE MASON

did, by force and violence, and by intimidation, knowingly take from the person and presence of another, namely, employees of Provident Bank, located in Kearny, New Jersey, approximately \$1,700 in money belonging to, and in the care, custody, control, management, and possession, of Provident Bank, the deposits of which were then insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2113(a).

ATTACHMENT B

I, Alexandra Skovira, am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"). I am fully familiar with the facts set forth in this Complaint based on my own investigation, my conversation with other law enforcement officers, and my review of reports, documents, and items of evidence. Where statements of others are related here, they are related in substance and part. Since this complaint is being submitted for a limited purpose, I have not set forth each and every fact that I know concerning this investigation. Where I assert that an event took place on a particular date, I am asserting that it took place on or about the date alleged.

1. On or about October 21, 2016, a black male wearing a black vest, a hooded sweatshirt, and a black baseball cap entered a Kearny Bank in or around Harrison, New Jersey. The individual approached a bank teller ("Victim Teller 1") and verbally demanded \$50 and \$100 bills. Victim Teller 1 handed the individual \$1,549 in United States currency, and the robber left the bank.

2. Law enforcement officers with the FBI reviewed surveillance photos from the bank robbery and recognized the individual as defendant JERMAINE MASON, a/k/a "Asim Harris" ("MASON"). MASON was known to the FBI because he previously robbed several banks, for which he was previously convicted of one count of bank robbery. *See United States v. Jermaine Mason*, Crim. No. 06-cr-478 (WJM).

3. On or about November 3, 2016, defendant MASON, wearing a construction vest and a baseball cap, entered a PNC Bank in or around Jersey City, New Jersey. Defendant MASON approached a bank teller ("Victim Teller 2") and handed Victim Teller 2 a handwritten note that read: "I'm not going play [sic] with you. You get one chance. \$100 [and] \$50 bills pass to me – stack!". Defendant MASON also verbally demanded money from Victim Teller 2. Victim Teller 2 handed defendant MASON \$11,890 in United States currency, and defendant MASON left the bank.

4. After the November 3 bank robbery, law enforcement officers with the Jersey City Police showed Victim Teller 2 a photo array that included a picture of defendant MASON, and Victim Teller 2 identified defendant MASON as the bank robber. Law enforcement officers also obtained a latent fingerprint on the demand note that defendant MASON handed to Victim Teller 2, and it matched defendant MASON's fingerprints.

5. On or about November 17, 2016, defendant MASON, wearing sunglasses, a white shirt, and a black knit cap, entered a Popular Community Bank in or around Newark, New Jersey. Defendant MASON approached a bank teller ("Victim Teller 3"), and handed Victim Teller 3 a handwritten note that read as follows: "Hand me the money. \$100 bills or we [are] going [to]

have a problem!” Defendant MASON also verbally demanded money from Victim Teller 3. Victim Teller 3 handed MASON \$440 in United States currency, and MASON left the bank.

6. Law enforcement officers obtained latent fingerprints on both the demand note that defendant MASON handed to Victim Teller 3 and on the glass partition separating the bank robber and Victim Teller 3 at the time of the bank robbery. The fingerprints on both the note and the glass partition matched defendant MASON’s fingerprints.

7. On or about November 18, 2016, defendant MASON, wearing sunglasses, a construction vest, and a black knit cap, entered a Provident Bank in or around Jersey City, New Jersey. Defendant MASON approached a bank teller (“Victim Teller 4”), and verbally demanded money from Victim Teller 4. Victim Teller 4 provided defendant MASON with approximately \$850 in United States currency, and defendant MASON left the bank.

8. After leaving the bank, video surveillance cameras captured defendant MASON entering a two-door 2005 silver Monte Carlo car. Further investigation revealed that defendant MASON had purchased the car two weeks earlier. Additionally, after the bank robbery, law enforcement officers showed Victim Teller 4 a photo array that included a picture of defendant MASON, and Victim Teller 4 identified defendant MASON as the bank robber.

9. On or about November 29, 2016, defendant MASON, wearing a black pea coat and black knit cap, entered a Provident Bank in or around Kearny, New Jersey. Defendant MASON approached a bank teller (“Victim Teller 5”) and verbally demanded \$50 and \$100 bills. Victim Teller 5 handed defendant MASON approximately \$1,700 in United States currency, and defendant MASON left the bank.

10. On or about November 30, 2016, defendant MASON was arrested in Newark, New Jersey, pursuant to outstanding warrants. In a post-arrest statement to law enforcement officers, defendant MASON confessed to all five bank robberies charged in Counts One through Five of this Complaint, and discussed above.

11. At all times relevant to this Complaint, the deposits of each of the banks identified above were insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.