



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

Boston man admits to 2013 Masked Armed Robbery of Randolph bank

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Willie Barnes, age 37, of Boston pled guilty to the November 14, 2013 masked armed robbery of the Bank of Canton branch in Randolph, and charges associated with the wild police chase that followed, in Norfolk Superior Court today (February 24, 2015), according to Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey.

"Assistant District Attorney David Omiunu asked for a state prison sentence of 8 to 10 years," District Attorney Morrissey said. "Norfolk Superior Court Judge Thomas A. Connors imposed a sentence of 5 years to 5 years and one day in State Prison, followed by 18 months of probation."

Barnes entered the bank branch at approximately 5:40 p.m. wearing a mask and approached the a teller demanding large bills while repeatedly putting his hand in his pocket in a manner consistent with having a weapon secreted there, Morrissey said. When the teller handed him a quantity of \$100 and \$50 bills, Barnes shook his head and demanded more and was given a number of \$20 bills.

As he left, he told the teller "Don't push any buttons," adding "have a nice night." In total, he exited the bank with roughly \$3,000.

The bank manager immediately contacted Randolph Police when he had left the premises and provided a description of the defendant and the car he was driving. Police immediately responding to the location observed a black male fitting the description operating tan Toyota sedan traveling on North Street. When police activated their emergency lights and sirens, the defendant failed to stop – eventually accelerating to approximately 80 miles per hour through the streets of town, passing cars on both sides until he finally caused a head-on collision. He was arrested at gunpoint after a brief foot chase from the scene of the crash.

The money and mask were both discovered in the crashed Toyota, District Attorney Morrissey said.

"The Randolph Police Department did excellent work taking Mr. Barnes into custody immediately after the robbery, securing the type and kind of evidence that makes for a very strong prosecution," District Attorney Morrissey said. "I have little doubt that influenced this defendant's willingness to admit his guilt in the face of a state prison sentence."