



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

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TITUSVILLE BANK ROBBERS PLEAD GUILTY IN FEDERAL COURT

United States Attorney Paul I. Perez today announced that **HARVEY R. JOHNSON, 25 (Titusville)** and **DAMMRON D. MITCHELL, 26 (Titusville)** pled guilty to charges arising from the armed robbery of a Titusville First Union Bank on June 20, 2002. The pair entered guilty pleas to all charges listed in a federal grand jury indictment - Conspiracy to Commit Bank Robbery, Bank Robbery, and Use of a Firearm in Relation to a Crime of Violence. The conspiracy count carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison. The robbery count carries a maximum sentence of 25 years in prison. The firearms count carries a minimum mandatory sentence of not less than five years consecutive to the sentence imposed in the other counts up to a maximum term of life imprisonment.

According to facts disclosed at the plea hearing, Johnson and Mitchell received information in advance of the robbery from a bank teller, Abbey Latasha Graham, 22 which included details of the bank's security procedures, currency deliveries and a drawing of the interior of the branch office that displayed the location of the bank's vault and video surveillance recording system. With the assistance of two other individuals - Donald Johnson, 19 (Titusville), and Troy Henley, 24 (Titusville) - Johnson and Mitchell entered

the bank with firearms, struck employees and customers with the weapons, and obtained in excess of \$43,000.

Troy Henley was previously sentenced to 48 months in federal prison for his role in the offense; Donald Johnson was sentenced to 260 months in prison; and, after being convicted by a federal jury, Abbey Graham was sentenced to a term of five years' imprisonment.

The case represents the culmination of a cooperative effort between the United States Attorney's Office, the State Attorney's Office for Brevard/Seminole Counties, the Brevard Resident Agency of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Brevard County Sheriff's Office, and the City of Titusville Police Department. This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). United States Attorney Paul Perez is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials and calling our effort "Project Safe Neighborhoods - Operation HALT the Violence!" The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. Bodnar, Jr. and Special Assistant United States Attorney Gregory A. Konieczka.