



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**JULY 23, 2003**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MAN CHARGED WITH ROBBING INDEPENDENCE BANK**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a man was charged in federal court today with robbing a bank in Independence, Mo.

**John D. Bratton**, 33, who has no permanent address, was charged in a criminal complaint with taking by force and violence approximately \$1,240 from a bank teller at Union Bank, located at 4340 South Noland Road in Independence, on July 22, 2003. The criminal complaint was filed today in U.S. District Court in Kansas City.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint, **Bratton** allegedly entered the bank and handed a teller a note, which appeared to be written on the back of a lottery ticket. According to the affidavit, the note stated, "I've got a gun! 20's and 50's." After receiving the money, the affidavit alleges **Bratton** fled the bank on foot. Shortly after, the bank's manager observed **Bratton** enter a blue Ford Ranger pickup truck parked at a nearby parking lot.

Law enforcement officers later reviewed surveillance tapes of the parking lot and obtained the vehicle's license plate. On July 23, 2003, a law enforcement officer observed the vehicle parked at a hotel located on East 42<sup>nd</sup> Terrace. At that time, **Bratton** was seen leaving a hotel room and was placed under arrest, the affidavit states.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the criminal complaint are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney K. Michael Warner. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at [www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)