



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Attention: Audio comments from U.S. Attorney Todd P. Graves regarding this news release are immediately available by request or may be obtained online after 5 a.m., Aug. 20, 2003, at www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

DEFENDANT INDICTED FOR ROBBING FOUR BANKS IN KC

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a defendant was indicted by a federal grand jury today for robbing four banks in the Kansas City area.

John D. Bratton, 33, who has no permanent address, was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City, for robbing banks in Gladstone, Kansas City, North Kansas City, and Independence, Mo.

“The federal indictment alleges that **Bratton** took by force nearly \$10,000 from the banks,” Graves said.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that on July 2, 2003, **Bratton** took by threat of violence \$390 from a bank teller at the U.S. Bank, located at 200 N.E. Vivion Road, in Kansas City.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that on July 9, 2003, **Bratton** took by threat of violence \$6,950 from a bank teller at the U.S. Bank, located at 6098 N.E. Antioch Road in Gladstone.

Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that on July 19, 2003, **Bratton** took by threat of violence \$1,237.53 from a bank teller at the Bank of America, located at 2060 Armour Road in North Kansas City.

Count Four of the federal indictment alleges that on July 22, 2003, **Bratton** took by threat of violence \$1,240 from a bank teller at the Union Bank, located at 4340 S. Noland Road in

Independence.

“**Bratton** was originally charged with robbing one bank in a criminal complaint filed in federal court on July 23, 2003,” Graves said. “Today’s indictment replaces that criminal complaint and alleges the robberies of three additional banks in the metropolitan area.”

According to an affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint, **Bratton** was arrested after entering the Union Bank and handing the 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. 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 42nd Terrace. At that time, **Bratton** was observed leaving a hotel room and was placed under arrest, the affidavit states.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in today’s indictment 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.

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