



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY TO ROBBING 2 BANKS IN KC AREA

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a defendant pleaded guilty today to robbing two banks in the Kansas City area.

John D. Bratton, 33, who has no permanent address, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning to robbing banks in Gladstone, Mo., and Independence, Mo.

“By pleading guilty, **Bratton** admitted that he took by force \$8,000 from the banks,” Graves said.

Bratton admitted that he took by threat of violence \$6,950 on July 9, 2003, from a bank teller at the U.S. Bank, located at 6098 N.E. Antioch Road in Gladstone, and \$1,240 on July 22, 2003, 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. The criminal complaint was later replaced by the indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Aug. 19, 2003, in Kansas City.

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, **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, Graves said.

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