



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY TO ROBBING LOCAL BANK

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a man pleaded guilty in federal court today to robbing the Great Southern Bank, located at 2410 N. Glenstone Ave.

Dennis James Godfrey, 49, who currently is in state custody, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this morning to an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Dec. 18, 2002. By pleading guilty, **Godfrey** admitted to taking money by intimidation from a teller at Great Southern Bank on Nov. 26, 2002.

Godfrey admitted that he robbed the bank at approximately 1 p.m. on Nov. 26, 2002. At that time, Graves said, **Godfrey** entered the bank and removed a brown paper bag from his pocket, demanding that a teller give him cash in unmarked bills. The teller gave **Godfrey** currency in \$1, \$5 and \$10 denominations. After robbing Great Southern Bank, **Godfrey** got into a vehicle parked outside the establishment and drove away from the bank. A bank employee then called out the license plate number, color and make of the getaway vehicle. **Godfrey** was arrested less than 30 minutes after he robbed the Springfield bank of \$568.

Godfrey's sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled sometime after the completion of a presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas C. Bunch. The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Springfield, Mo., Police Department.

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