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Repeat Bank Robber Sentenced to 15 Years in Prison



ALBANY, NY - District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that THOMAS T. SMITH, 53, of Albany, was sentenced to 15 years in State Prison, to be followed by 5 years of Post Release Supervision, before the Honorable Thomas A. Breslin in Albany County Supreme Court this morning.

On December 14, 2016, SMITH pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Robbery in the First Degree, a Class B Armed Violent Felony.

The guilty plea fully satisfied four separate bank robbery incidents from July through September, 2016:

On July 29, 2016, tellers at the First Niagara Bank located at 120 State Street in the City of Albany reported that a male individual later identified as SMITH was disguised in a wig when he entered the bank and handed tellers a note demanding money. During the incident SMITH was pointing his hand in a pocket insinuating that he had a weapon. The teller complied and SMITH escaped with \$1,500. A discarded disguise was found near the bank after the incident.

On August 19, 2016, tellers at the Citizen's Bank located at 111 Washington Avenue in the City of Albany reported that a male individual later identified as SMITH was disguised with a hat and sunglasses when he entered the bank and handed tellers a note demanding money. During the incident SMITH threatened tellers that he had a gun. The teller complied and SMITH escaped with \$1,300.

On September 1, 2016, tellers at the First Niagara Bank located at 899 Western Avenue in the City of Albany reported that a male individual later identified as SMITH entered the bank and demanded money. During the incident SMITH slapped a bank teller in the face. The teller complied and SMITH escaped with \$3,420.

On September 12, 2016, tellers at the First Niagara Bank located at 120 State Street in the City of Albany reported that a male individual later identified as SMITH was disguised in a construction worker hat when he entered the bank and handed tellers a note demanding money. The teller complied and SMITH escaped with \$1,500. A discarded construction helmet was found near the bank after the incident.

Assistant District Attorney Dennis DiBari of the Major Crimes Unit prosecuted this case.

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