



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

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BRIDGE CITY STATE BANK ROBBER SENTENCED

(Beaumont, Texas) A 47-year-old Orange County man has been sentenced to 41 months in federal prison for bank robbery. **THAD WALTON THOMPSON** was sentenced today by United States District Judge Marcia Crone.

According to information presented in court, Thompson entered the Bridge City State Bank in Orange on March 12, 2004 and handed the teller a note saying it was a "stick-up" and demanding \$50,000. The note also indicated he had a bomb in a black case he was carrying. Thompson claimed that the bomb would detonate if he did not receive the money. Bank employees alerted the police who quickly arrived and surrounded the bank before Thompson could leave. He was arrested without incident and the suspected bomb was determined to be a fake. Thompson pleaded guilty on May 20, 2004.

United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig praised the law enforcement agencies and bank employees for their exemplary actions in this case, "The irresponsibility of the robber placed numerous persons in fear of their lives and caused a tense situation. The bank employees handled the situation calmly and professionally while quickly alerting law enforcement authorities."

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The case was investigated by the Orange Police Department, the West Orange Police Department, the Orange County Sheriff's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and the Baytown Police Department. Assistant U. S. Attorney John Stevens prosecuted the case.

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