



“For Immediate Release”

Auburndale Police Department News Release

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TD Bank Robbery Suspect Apprehended

Auburndale Police detectives along with the Polk County Sheriff’s Office, the FBI, and the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office, identified a suspect in the Tuesday morning armed robbery of the TD Bank on US Highway 92 West.

During the investigation, witnesses in the area were able to provide a description of a suspicious vehicle that was parked near the bank the morning of the robbery. The Auburndale Police Department, working with the initial description of the suspect and now the possibility of a suspect vehicle in the area, learned that Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office detectives were investigating a series of robberies with similarities in the suspect and vehicle.

As the investigation progressed, evidence was discovered linking the suspect to the robbery, which ultimately resulted in the issuance of an arrest warrant for Gabriel James Brown, Jr. Florida Highway Patrol troopers and the Santa Rosa County Sheriff’s Office located the suspect traveling west on US 90 in Milton, Florida, late yesterday afternoon and arrested him following a traffic stop.

During the ensuing arrest investigation, officers located clothing, disguises, a firearm, cash, and other items in his vehicle connecting the suspect to the TD Bank robbery.

The suspect had disguised himself by wearing a dark wig and had worn other items to disguise his appearance. An Auburndale Police detective, a Polk County Sheriff’s detective assigned to the FBI Task Force, and Hillsborough County Sheriff’s detectives traveled to Milton last night to interview Brown.

During the interview at the Santa Rosa County Jail, Brown confessed to committing the robbery at TD Bank in Auburndale on Tuesday morning. He said he lost funding for a nursing program he was attending and has been unable to pay his rent and other bills. Brown is being held without bond in the Santa Rosa County Jail at this time.



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Arrested:

Gabriel James Brown, Jr., Black/Male, DOB 10/18/1979, of 919 Balaye Ridge Circle in Tampa, Florida.

Charges:

Armed Robbery
Grand Theft
Discharging a Destructive Device



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