



**U.S. Department of Justice**

**Stephen J. Murphy  
United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001  
211 West Fort Street  
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277*

**For Immediate Release:**

**Contact:** Gina Balaya (313) 226-9758

April 8, 2008

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**EVENT: Guilty Plea**

**Defendant: Brandon Allen et al**

### **TWO DETROIT POLICE OFFICERS PLEAD GUILTY TO EXTORTION**

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Two Detroit Police officers pleaded guilty to extorting money from a citizen, under color of law, in violation of the Hobbs Act, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Andrew G. Arena, Federal Bureau of Investigation,

Pleading guilty today was Brandon Allen, 23, of Southfield. On March 25, 2008, Aaron Scott, 24 of Southfield pleaded guilty to a one count Information. His partner and co-defendant Aaron Scott, 24, also of Southfield, pleaded guilty today. Both cases are before the Honorable David M. Lawson.

The evidence adduced at the two guilty plea hearings established that on October 19, 2007, while they were on duty and assigned to the Tactical Services Section, Officers Allen and Scott extorted funds from a clerk at the convenience store inside the Marathon Gas Station located at West Warren and the Jeffries Freeway in the City of Detroit by threatening to arrest him if he did not pay them. The in-store video from that night shows the clerk chased a group of troublemakers out of the store by brandishing a shotgun; the clerk immediately came

back inside the store, put the shotgun away, and continued to wait on customers. The video shows that moments later, Officers Allen and Scott came into the store with guns drawn, ordered the clerk from behind the counter, placed him in handcuffs, and talked to him. According to their guilty pleas, the officers told him he could face various legal troubles as a result of his actions, but he could avoid going to jail by paying them cash. The video shows the officers then removed the handcuffs, and the clerk took money from the cash register of the gas station and handed it to one of the officers. The officers left, and made no note of the event in their DPD activity log.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "Shaking down merchants while hiding behind the authority of a police badge is completely intolerable. Such conduct brings shame upon the law enforcement community and will be prosecuted for crime that it is."

Brandon Allen's sentencing hearing is set for August 4, 2008. Aaron Scott will be sentenced on June 30, 2008.

A conviction for this offense carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison or a \$250,000 fine, or both. The sentence will be imposed under the United States Sentence Guidelines according to the nature of the offense and the criminal background, if any, of the defendants.