



## U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney  
District of Maine*

100 Middle Street  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor, East Tower  
Portland, ME 04101

(207) 780-3257  
TTY (207) 780-3060  
Fax (207) 780-3304  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/me](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/me)

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Contact: Renée M. Bunker  
Assistant United States Attorney  
Tel: (207) 780-3257

### **Man Charged in Armed Robbery of Burger King Receives 121-Month Federal Sentence**

Portland, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced that **Christopher Suthard**, 20, of Biddeford, Maine, was sentenced today in U.S. District Court to a 121-month prison term for his role in an armed robbery of the Burger King on Main Street in Saco, Maine in May 2007 and marijuana distribution. U.S. District Court Judge D. Brock Hornby imposed the sentence following Suthard's guilty plea to a three-count Indictment.

According to court records, in June 2007, Suthard was arrested in Biddeford and was subsequently indicted by a federal grand jury along with Corey Wright, 20, of East Rochester, New Hampshire. The indictment charged Suthard and Wright with one count of interfering with commerce by robbery of the Burger King and one count of brandishing a firearm while committing that crime of violence. The indictment also charged Suthard with conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute marijuana. Suthard pleaded guilty to all three counts on November 16, 2007. Wright has also pleaded guilty and is awaiting sentencing. Court records reveal that a manager of the Burger King reported the robbery shortly after midnight on May 10, 2007, and that during the robbery he was threatened and struck in the head with an object that felt like a gun. Further investigation and a search of a residence where Suthard and Wright were believed to have resided led to seizure of a hand-written drawing of the interior of the Burger King restaurant, where Suthard previously worked, that had multiple latent prints matching those of Suthard. When arrested on an unrelated charge in June 2007 and found to be in possession of a handgun, Suthard admitted his participation in the robbery and that the gun he possessed was the one used during the robbery. Court records show that multiple witnesses also provided information implicating Suthard in the marijuana distribution.

During Suthard's sentencing hearing today, the Court imposed 37-month terms of imprisonment for the robbery and marijuana distribution offenses, to run concurrently with each other and consecutively to the statutory mandatory minimum penalty of seven years for the offense of brandishing a firearm during a crime of violence. The result was a total sentence of 121 months to be followed by three years of supervised release. The Court also ordered Suthard to pay \$1,306 in restitution to the Burger King restaurant.

United States Attorney Paula Silsby said that the investigation that led to Suthard's conviction was conducted by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), with substantial assistance from the Biddeford and Saco Police Departments.

