



## U.S. Department of Justice

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### **McHENRY MAN SENTENCED TO 43 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR ROBBERY OF CHARTER ONE BANK IN McHENRY**

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; ROBERT D. GRANT, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; LOUIS BIANCHI, McHenry County State's Attorney; and THOMAS J. O'MEARA, Chief of the City of McHenry Police Department, today made the following announcement:

**BENJAMIN T. THOMA**, 28, of Lakemoor, Illinois, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Frederick J. Kapala to 43 months in the Bureau of Prisons for robbing the Charter One Bank inside the Dominick's grocery store located at 2000 Richmond Road, McHenry, Illinois, on December 19, 2007. Thoma will not be eligible for parole.

In pleading guilty on March 7, 2008, Thoma admitted that on December 19, 2007, at approximately 6:30 p.m., he robbed the Charter One Bank inside the Dominick's grocery store located at 2000 Richmond Road in McHenry, Illinois. According to the plea agreement, Thoma approached the teller counter and told a teller to give him all the money inside her cash drawer, not to use any dye packs, and not to press any alarms. In his plea agreement, Thoma admitted that he then stated, "I'm not kidding, I have a bomb," and pointed to a bag that he was carrying which had a visible wire coming out of the top. The teller then opened her cash drawer and gave Thoma \$2,409 in United States currency in an envelope. That currency belonged to and was in the control of the Charter One Bank. Thoma then left the bank. The bag with the wire coming out of the top was not an actual bomb, but contained four to five soup cans. At the time of the robbery, the deposits of the Charter One Bank were insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Thoma has been held in custody since December 19, 2007.

In addition to being ordered to serve 43 months in the Bureau of Prisons, Thoma was ordered to serve 3 years of supervised release upon his release from imprisonment, to pay a \$500 fine, a \$100 special assessment, and \$100 in restitution. The \$2,309 that were recovered from Thoma at the time of his arrest on December 19, 2007 will be returned to the bank.

The case was investigated by the Rockford office of the FBI and the City of McHenry Police Department. The case was prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney MICHAEL F. IASPARRO.

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