



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**For Immediate Release**

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**DELTONA BANK ROBBER PLEADS GUILTY IN FEDERAL COURT**

Orlando, Florida - United States Attorney Paul I. Perez today announced that **Nick Anzoil Baussan**, a 26-year old resident of Altamonte Springs, Florida, pleaded guilty to a two-count indictment charging him with armed bank robbery (Count One) and carrying a firearm during a crime of violence (Count Two). As to Count One, the maximum penalty Baussan faces is 25 years' imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, 5 years of supervised release and a special assessment of \$100. With regard to Count Two, Baussan faces a *consecutive* mandatory minimum term of 7 years' up to life imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, 5 years of supervised release and a special assessment of \$100. A sentencing date before the Honorable Patricia C. Fawsett, Chief United States District Judge, has not been set.

According to the plea agreement, Baussan and his co-defendant, Steve Absalon, entered a Volusia County branch of Banco Popular on the morning of May 28, 2003. The men wore nylon masks in an effort to disguise their appearance and carried a .25 caliber

semi-automatic pistol. Once inside the bank, Baussan and Absalon held employees and customers at gunpoint, vaulted the teller counter and obtained \$4,446 in cash. As they fled the bank, however, the men dropped a plastic bag of currency and a backpack containing Baussan's mail and assorted personal items. When law enforcement officers subsequently arrested Baussan, he confessed to having committed the robbery.

The case represents the culmination of a cooperative effort between the United States Attorney's Office, the State Attorney's Office, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF"). It is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from ATF. United States Attorney Paul I. Perez is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials and calling our effort "Project Safe Neighborhoods - Operation HALT the Violence!" The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was investigated by the Daytona Beach Resident Agency of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Volusia County Sheriff's Office. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. Bodnar, Jr.