



# PRESS RELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

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### **MARION COUNTY BANK ROBBER INDICTED** **IN "PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS" CASE**

Orlando, Florida - United States Attorney Paul I. Perez today announced the return of an indictment charging **EUGENE BROWN, JR.**, a/k/a Eugene Welcome, a 65 year-old resident of Eustis, Florida with armed bank robbery (Count One) and carrying a firearm during a crime of violence (Count Two). As to Count One, the maximum penalty Brown faces is twenty five years' imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, five years of supervised release and a special assessment of \$100. With regard to Count Two, Brown faces a *consecutive* mandatory minimum term of seven years' imprisonment up to life imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, five years of supervised release and a special assessment of \$100.

According to the indictment, Brown took \$47,147 at gunpoint from the employees of a branch of Colonial Bank located at 11220 SE 179th Place, Summerfield, Florida, on August 4, 2003. The indictment further alleges that during the robbery Brown assaulted and put in jeopardy the lives of the employees by the use of a .38 caliber revolver.

This 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 the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Explosives (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 Marion County Sheriff’s Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. Bodnar, Jr.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.