



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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Teenagers Plead Guilty to Armed Robbery Near Metro Station – Both Admit to Committing a Series of Robberies Near the Station in 2010 –

WASHINGTON - D'Angelo Harrison and Devanta Francis, both 16, have pled guilty to taking part in an armed robbery in December 2010 near a Metrorail station in Northeast Washington, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced today. As part of their guilty plea, the two also admitted taking part in other robberies near the station.

Harrison and Francis, who were both 16 at the time of their arrests, were charged as adults by the U.S. Attorney's Office. They pled guilty to armed robbery on March 4, 2011 in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. The charge carries a statutory maximum penalty of 30 years in prison. The defendants are to be sentenced May 6, 2011 by the Honorable Judge Ronna L. Beck.

The guilty plea stems from an armed robbery that took place on December 7, 2010. According to the government's evidence, at about 10:10 that night, the victim, a teenage male, exited the Rhode Island Avenue-Brentwood Metrorail station after attending a high school basketball game. Harrison and Francis followed the youth as he walked onto nearby 12th Street NE. Harrison asked him if he wanted to fight. The victim said that he did not want any trouble.

Francis then pulled out a handgun and demanded the victim's personal property. The victim handed over his coat, sweater, Metrorail pass, and cellular phone. Francis then told the victim, "Go in the house and call the police." Officers from the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) responded to the scene within minutes and stopped the defendants in the area. The victim identified both defendants, and police recovered his personal property from them.

As part of the guilty plea, the defendants admitted taking part in a total of five other robberies near the Metro station. Harrison admitted to committing three of these other robberies during November and December 2010, and Francis admitted committing the other two.

In announcing the plea, U.S. Attorney Machen commended MPD Detective Anthony Commodore, of the Fifth District Criminal Investigation Division, who led the investigation, as well as Detective Dino McFadden, Investigator William G. Talbert, and MPD Officers Keith Gray, Marques McRae, Darnell Peterson, Kiel Tilley, and Crime Scene Technician C.R. Davis.

U.S. Attorney Machen also expressed his appreciation to Paralegal Kalisha Johnson-Clark, who prepared the case for indictment, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Terry Eaton, who conducted the pre-indictment investigation and is prosecuting the case.

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