



**U.S. Department of Justice**

United States Attorney  
Northern District of Illinois

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Gary S. Shapiro  
Acting United States Attorney

327 South Church Street, Suite 3300  
Rockford, Illinois 61101

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PRESS CONTACTS:  
AUSA John G. McKenzie (815) 987-4444

**CALIFORNIA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ROBBERY  
OF BMO HARRIS BANK IN ROCKFORD**

ROCKFORD — A California man pleaded guilty today in Federal Court to bank robbery. The defendant, William Joseph Farrell, 38, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Philip G. Reinhard to the robbery of BMO Harris Bank, 3202 McFarland Rd., Rockford, Ill., on March 2, 2012.

According to the written plea agreement, Farrell stole a white panel van in Algonquin, Ill. during the early morning hours on Feb. 29, 2012. On March 2, 2012, Farrell drove the van to Rockford and parked in a grocery store parking lot near the BMO Harris Bank branch on McFarland Road. Farrell admitted he entered the bank and handed a note to a teller that stated "I have a Gun. U R Being Robbed. Give Me \$100 - \$50 - \$20 - \$10. Thank you." The teller complied with the note, took \$4,000 of the bank's money from the teller drawer, and handed the money to Farrell, who then fled from the bank in the stolen van.

Farrell has been in federal custody since his arrest on April 20, 2012. Sentencing has been set for Dec. 19, 2012, at 9:00 a.m.

Bank robbery carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, and full restitution. The Court must impose a reasonable sentence guided by the advisory United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The guilty plea was announced by Gary S. Shapiro, Acting United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; William C. Monroe, Acting Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Office of Federal Bureau of Investigation; Chet Epperson, Chief of the Rockford Police Department; and Russell Laine, Chief of the Algonquin Police Department.

The government is being represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney John G. McKenzie.

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