



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Northern District of Illinois
Western Division*

*Monica V. Mallory
Assistant U.S. Attorney*

*308 West State Street - Room 300
Rockford, Illinois 61101*

*PH: (815) 987-4444
FAX: (815) 987-4236*

May 14, 2004

FORMER ROCKFORD MAN SENTENCED TO 102 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR ARMED BANK ROBBERY OF BELVIDERE BANK AND TRUST COMPANY

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; THOMAS J. KNEIR, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and JAN NOBLE, Belvidere Police Chief, today made the following announcement:

United States District Court Judge Philip G. Reinhard today sentenced **JOSEPH MILLER**, 39 (DOB: 11/23/64), formerly of Rockford, Illinois, to 102 months in federal prison without parole, five years of supervised release following his release from prison, and full restitution for the armed robbery of the Belvidere Bank and Trust Company, 600 South State Street, Belvidere, Illinois, on July 13, 2001.

On March 11, 2004, Miller pleaded guilty and admitted that he entered the bank, walked to the end of the teller counter and attempted to open a locked waist high gate to enter the area behind the teller counter. Miller admitted he attempted to kick open the gate without success, then jumped over the gate to the teller's station. Standing next to a teller Miller demanded money, reached into his pocket and pulled out a knife, partially opening the blade. The teller opened a drawer and Miller then grabbed money with both hands. After obtaining the money, Miller jumped back over the gate and fled the bank.

Miller was arrested by the Riverdale Police on July 14, 2001, on unrelated state drug charges and had been held in state custody since his arrest and conviction on those charges. Miller has been held in federal custody on the federal bank robbery charge since October 14, 2003.

This case was investigated by the Rockford Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Belvidere Police Department, with the assistance of the Loves Park Police Department and the Riverdale Police Department. It was prosecuted in Rockford federal court by Assistant United States Attorney Monica V. Mallory.

###