

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

ERIC D. FULTON

CASE NUMBER:

14 CR**387****CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about June 27, 2014, at Waukegan, in the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, the defendant violated:

Code Section

Title 18, United States Code, Section
2113(a).

Offense Description

Defendant did, by intimidation, take from the person and presence of another, specifically, a bank employee, approximately \$3,375 in United States currency, belonging to and in the care, custody, control, management, and possession of NorStates Bank, 3233 Grand Avenue, Waukegan, Illinois, the deposits of which were then insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

This criminal complaint is based upon these facts:

Continued on the attached sheet.

CHAD PIONTEK

Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation
(FBI)

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date: July 8, 2014

Mary M. Rowland

Judge's signature

City and state: Chicago, Illinois

MARY M. ROWLAND, U.S. Magistrate Judge

Printed name and Title

RECEIVED

JUL X 8 2014

THOMAS G. BRUTON
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

ss

AFFIDAVIT

I, CHAD PIONTEK, being duly sworn, state as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. I am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and have been so employed for nine years. My current responsibilities include the investigation of violent crimes, including, among others, kidnaping, bank robbery, and the apprehension of violent fugitives.

2. This affidavit is submitted in support of a criminal complaint alleging that ERIC D. FULTON has violated Title 18, United States Code, Section 2113(a). Because this affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause in support of a criminal complaint charging FULTON with bank robbery, I have not included each and every fact known to me concerning this investigation. I have set forth only the facts that I believe are necessary to establish probable cause to believe that the defendant committed the offense alleged in the complaint.

3. This affidavit is based on my personal knowledge from my participation in this investigation, reports I have read relating to this investigation, conversations I have had with other law enforcement agents who have knowledge of the events and circumstances described herein, interviews of bank employees and witnesses, and my own experience and training as an FBI agent.

FACTS IN SUPPORT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

June 21, 2014, robbery of the NorStates Bank on Lewis Avenue in Waukegan

4. On June 21, 2014, at approximately 11:23 a.m., a black male wearing a fishing-style hat, dark sunglasses, and a dark, zip-front jacket (hereinafter, "the robber"), entered the NorStates Bank located at 1601 N. Lewis Avenue in Waukegan, Illinois. After waiting in line for several minutes, the robber approached Teller A and handed her a note on a small piece of paper. The handwritten note read as follows: "Give me all the money in your draw. No eletronic device's. No dye pack's." Teller A complied with the robber's demand and emptied her teller drawer, giving the robber approximately \$4,186 in United States Currency. The robber took the money, quickly exited the bank, and walked southbound. Waukegan Police Department recovered the demand note, which the robber left behind.

5. NorStates Bank surveillance footage showed that the robber was a black male, approximately 6'0" tall with a heavy build, and wearing a light-colored fishing-style hat, dark sunglasses and a dark-colored zip-front jacket. The descriptions of the robber provided by Teller A as well as Teller B, another witness to the robbery, were consistent with the images of the robber captured on the bank's surveillance video.

6. Documentation provided by NorStates Bank showed that approximately \$4,186 was taken during the robbery, and that, on June 21, 2014, NorStates Bank was insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

June 27, 2014, robbery of the NorStates Bank on Grand Avenue in Waukegan

7. On June 27, 2014, at approximately 2:58 p.m., a black male wearing a blue Chicago Cubs baseball cap, a dark-colored zip-front jacket, dark pants, and a plastic glove on his right hand (hereinafter, "the robber") entered the NorStates Bank located at 3233 Grand Avenue in Waukegan, Illinois. After waiting in line for several minutes, the robber approached Teller C and slid a note on a small, torn piece of white paper, under the glass partition. The handwritten note read as follows: "Give me the money in the drawer. No eletronic device's [sic]. No one has to be hurt!" As Teller C read the note, the robber placed his right hand inside the unzipped portion of his jacket, as though gesturing toward a weapon. Teller C complied with the robber's demand, and handed the robber approximately \$3,375 in United States Currency that the teller took from her teller drawer. The robber took the money, turned away from the teller counter and exited the bank, leaving the demand note behind, which Waukegan Police Department recovered.

8. Teller D, another bank employee present during the robbery, was told that a robbery had just occurred and immediately went to the front windows of the bank. Teller D observed the robber walk out the front doors of the bank and toward a minivan parked in a parking spot near the front door. The robber entered the driver's side door of the minivan and left the bank parking lot, headed eastbound on Grand Avenue. Teller D described the minivan as a dark green Nissan Quest minivan.

9. NorStates Bank surveillance video showed that the robber was a black male, approximately 6'0" tall with a heavy build, and wearing a dark-colored Chicago Cubs baseball hat and a dark-colored, zip-front jacket. The descriptions of the robber provided by Tellers C and D were consistent with the images of the robber captured on the bank's surveillance video. The video also showed the robber walk to and enter a dark-colored minivan parked in the parking lot, and flee eastbound on Grand Avenue immediately after the robbery.

10. Documentation provided by NorStates Bank showed that approximately \$3,375 was taken during the robbery, and that, on June 27, 2014, NorStates Bank was insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

July 5, 2014, robbery of the NorStates Bank on Lewis Avenue in Waukegan

11. On July 5, 2014, at approximately 11:14 a.m., a black male wearing a dark-colored baseball cap with the words "Grand Tequila" on it, sunglasses, and a dark-colored, zip-front jacket over a light-colored t-shirt (hereinafter, "the robber") robbed the NorStates Bank located at 1601 N. Lewis Avenue in Waukegan, Illinois. After waiting in line for several minutes, the robber approached Teller E and handed him a note on a small, torn piece of white paper. Teller E asked the robber to remove his hat and glasses, and the robber did so. The handwritten note read as follows: "Give me the money out of your cash register. No one need to get hurt. No electronic device's [sic]." As Teller E read the note, the robber stated words to the effect of, "Just give me the money and nobody will get hurt." Teller E complied with the robber's demand and handed the robber approximately \$3,193 in United States

Currency that Teller E took from his drawer. The robber took the money and left the bank, but left behind the demand note, which Waukegan Police Department recovered.

12. NorStates Bank surveillance video footage showed that the robber was a black male, approximately 6'0" tall with a heavy build, and wearing a dark-colored, zip-front jacket with a light-colored shirt underneath it. The descriptions of the robber provided by Teller E was consistent with the images of the robber captured on the bank's surveillance video.

13. Documentation provided by NorStates Bank showed that approximately \$3,193 was taken during the robbery, and that, on July 5, 2014, NorStates Bank was insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

14. Following the robbery, law enforcement officers interviewed Individual A, a bank customer who was present during the robbery. Individual A told law enforcement officers that he spoke with the robber while waiting in line at the bank, and recognized him as a person who frequented the area near Grand Avenue and Butrick Street in Waukegan, but did not know the robber's name.

Identification of Defendant

15. On July 7, 2014, Waukegan Police Department Detectives showed a series of images of the robber generated from bank surveillance video of each robbery to several individuals in the area of Grand Avenue and Butrick Street. Individual B indicated that the person in the bank surveillance still images was likely inside a green Nissan minivan in an alley off of Butrick Street.

16. Waukegan Police Department Detectives then drove to the alley behind 615 N. Butrick Street and located a dark green Nissan Quest minivan occupied by a black male. As detectives approached the minivan, the driver started the vehicle and fled the scene. After a vehicle pursuit of approximately two miles, the driver of the minivan stopped his vehicle and surrendered to law enforcement. The driver's Illinois driver's license identified him as ERIC D. FULTON with an address in Zion, Illinois.

17. According to Secretary of State records, a light green 1998 Nissan van is registered to FULTON at an address in Waukegan, Illinois.

July 7, 2014, Interview of FULTON

18. On July 7, 2014, law enforcement officers interviewed FULTON. After being advised of, and waiving, his *Miranda* rights in writing and agreeing to answer questions, FULTON spoke with the officers. In summary, FULTON told the officers that he robbed the NorStates Bank three times as he was in need of money and the bank made it "easy to rob."

19. In particular, FULTON told the officers that on June 21, 2014, he robbed the NorStates Bank located at 1601 N. Lewis Avenue in Waukegan, Illinois, after parking his dark green Nissan Quest minivan in a parking lot to the south of the bank. FULTON stated that he presented a handwritten demand note to a white female teller (Teller A is a white female). FULTON said he never spoke to the teller. The teller gave United States Currency to FULTON, and FULTON then left the bank, returned to his Nissan Quest minivan, and fled the scene. FULTON did

not count the money, but estimated that he received approximately \$2,500, all of which he spent on alcohol, gambling, and cocaine. FULTON was shown copies of surveillance images from the June 21, 2014, robbery, as well as the recovered demand note. FULTON stated that he was the person depicted in the images, and that he wrote the demand note. FULTON then dated and initialed copies of the surveillance images and note.

20. FULTON next stated that on June 27, 2014, he robbed the NorStates Bank located at 3233 Grand Avenue in Waukegan, Illinois. FULTON parked his Nissan Quest minivan near the front doors of the bank, entered, and presented a handwritten demand note to a black female teller (Teller C is a black female). FULTON stated that he wore a disposable glove over his right hand, but not on his left hand. FULTON said he did not speak to the teller. After receiving United States Currency from the teller, FULTON returned to his vehicle in the parking lot and fled the scene. Again, FULTON did not count the money, but estimated that he received approximately \$2,500, all of which he spent on cocaine, alcohol, and gambling. FULTON was shown copies of surveillance images from the June 27, 2014, robbery, as well as the recovered demand note. FULTON stated that he was the person depicted in the images, and that he wrote the demand note. FULTON then dated and initialed copies of the surveillance images and note.

21. FULTON finally stated that on July 5, 2014, he again robbed the NorStates Bank located at 1601 N. Lewis Avenue in Waukegan, Illinois. FULTON told the officers that, while waiting in line, he spoke with an acquaintance, and then

presented a handwritten demand note to a white or Hispanic male teller (Teller E is a white or Hispanic teller) at the teller counter. The teller asked FULTON to remove his hat and glasses, and FULTON did so. The teller appeared to then read the note and gave United States Currency from his teller drawer to FULTON. FULTON fled the scene in his green Nissan Quest minivan. FULTON spent the money, which he did not count, on alcohol, cocaine, and gambling at the Grand Tequila bar located near Grand Avenue and Butrick Street in Waukegan, Illinois. FULTON was shown a copy of a surveillance image from the July 5, 2014, robbery, as well as the recovered demand note. FULTON stated that he was the person depicted in the image, and that he wrote the demand note. FULTON then dated and initialed copies of the surveillance images and note.

CONCLUSION

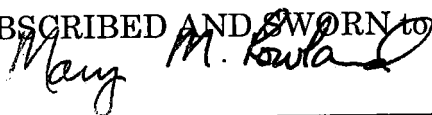
22. Accordingly, based on the foregoing facts, I respectfully submit that there is probable cause to believe that, on or about June 27, 2014, ERIC D. FULTON did, by intimidation, take from the person and presence of another, specifically, a bank employee, approximately \$3,375 in United States currency, belonging to and in the care, custody, control, management, and possession of NorStates Bank, 3233 Grand Avenue, Waukegan, Illinois, the deposits of which

were then insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2113(a).

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

CHAD PIONTEK
Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me on July 8, 2014.



MARY M. ROWLAND
United States Magistrate Judge