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PRESS RELEASE

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Case Update: Armed Robbery Conviction and Sentencing

On May 20, 2013 a jury trial was held in front of Judge Nancy J. Grant at the 6th Circuit Court. On May 24, 2013, the jury came back with a finding of James Rutherford Mell guilty of both Armed Robbery and Financial Transaction Device charges.

On June 13, 2013 Mell was sentenced in front for Judge Nancy J. Grant. He received the following:

COUNT 1: Armed robbery 25-60 years. Mell was the first to be charged and sentenced in Oakland County under the new Michigan Violent Offense 4th Felony (VO-4). This new law allows an offender to be sentenced under this with a minimum of 25 years based on their previous criminal history.

COUNTS 2-7: Financial Transaction Device: 2-15 years for each count.

Incident was reported on a previous press release dated January 18, 2013 and copied below:

On January 16, 2013 Troy Police Department arrested James Rutherford Mell, 38-years-old from Troy (see below photo) for “Armed Robbery” from an incident that occurred on January 9, 2013 at 6700 Rochester Rd. – Alibi restaurant.

On January 9, 2013 at approximately 2:47p.m. a female victim was exiting the Alibi restaurant with a carry-out order and placing it into her trunk when she heard a vehicle pull up behind her at a high rate of speed and stop suddenly. The vehicle was described as a

“black Jeep sports utility vehicle.” The victim turned around and observed a white male wearing a black ski mask and thin build exit the driver’s side of the vehicle. The suspect pointed what was believed to be a stainless steel handgun at the victim and stated “give me your purse now.” The victim turned over her purse and the suspect then entered back into the vehicle and fled the lot and onto Rochester Rd. and from there in an unknown direction. The victim did observe partial plate numbers and letters while the vehicle fled. Troy Investigators uncovered information revealing the suspect vehicle to possibly be a Dodge Nitro.

On January 16, 2013 a Troy officer working in the Troy Police Department’s Directed Patrol Unit alertly observed a 2008 Dodge Nitro sports utility vehicle parked in the front yard of a residence on a subdivision street in Troy close to scene of the armed robbery. With some investigative efforts the suspect in the armed robbery - James Rutherford Mell was positively identified and was arrested after being followed in the vehicle to a local party store. Mell was also found to be intoxicated and later registered a .30 Blood Alcohol Content.

Since the original report of the armed robbery Troy police officers in the Directed Patrol Unit, Special Investigations Unit and other Investigators have worked many hours to locate the suspect. This extensive search displays the Troy Police Department’s philosophy to exhaust all efforts to apprehend perpetrators of crimes that adversely affect the life and livability of those who live, work and enjoy Troy.

James Rutherford Mell was arraigned on January 18, 2013 before Magistrate Clement Waldmann of the 52-4 District Court in Troy for:

1-Count of Armed Robbery (up to life in prison)

6-Counts of Fraud: Financial Transaction Device (up to 4 years per count incarceration)

- Bond was set at \$250,000 cash or surety for these charges**
- Next court date on these charges will be January 23, 2013 at 9:00a.m. before Judge William Bolle of the 52-4 District Court**

1-Count of Operating while Intoxicated (up to 5 years incarceration)

- Bond was set at \$20,000 cash or surety**

- **Next court date on the charge will be January 22, 2013 at 9:00a.m. before Judge Kirsten Hartig of the 52-4 District Court**