CITY OF CORAL GABLES

-MEMORANDUM-

TO:

MAJOR JESSE MEDINA

DATE:

OCTOBER 28, 2020

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

FROM:

LIEUTENANT JOE WERNER & CHARLES SUBJECT:

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

AWARD/HONOR NOMINATION

ACTION/RECOMMENDATION

I nominate Sergeant Ted Nguyen for Officer of the Month for October 2020.

BACKGROUND

On the following dates: 9/30/2020, 10/05/2020, 10/10/2020, and 10/15/2020, there have been four bank robberies during the same afternoon time frame in Coral Gables. In each incident, the offender, who was wearing a face covering because of COVID-19 protocols, would pass a note demanding money to the bank tellers. The FBI's Violent Crimes Task Force responded to take the primary role in investigating these crimes and CGPD Crimes Against Person's Unit responded to assist with the investigations. The FBI Task Force advised CGPD that their investigation led them to a suspect who is currently on probation for bank robbery and who had recently been released from prison. Their suspect closely matched the physical description of our bank robber and had similarly utilized notes demanding money passed to bank tellers in the past to facilitate the commission of his crimes.

Sergeant Nguyen supervises the Crimes Against Persons Unit, which one of their many responsibilities includes investigating robberies. Sergeant Nguyen recognized a pattern that the bank robber would attempt to rob a bank every five days and Sergeant Nguyen observed from the bolo photographs that although the clothing the offender wore to commit the robberies was different in each incident, the offender appeared to be wearing the same black shoes with white color soles in all of the incidents. On 10/20/2020, Sergeant Nguyen decided to act and enlisted the assistance of Detective McKee to conduct a mobile surveillance of the Coral Gables downtown area banks during the afternoon hours. Sergeant Nguyen was driving his unmarked police vehicle at the 200 block of Alhambra Circle when he observed a male wearing a dark shirt/shorts, like what the offender wore during the 9/30/2020 robbery walking towards Salzedo Street. Also, the male was wearing black shoes with white soles, like what the offender wore in all the robberies. Sergeant Nguyen began to watch the male and alerted Detective Mckee, who was nearby in another unmarked police vehicle, of his observations. Sergeant Nguyen observed that the male appeared to be pacing and scanning the area. The male began to walk North on Salzedo Street then walked West into an alley. Sergeant Nguyen advised Detective Mckee who positioned himself on the other side of the alley and located the male who took evasive action. Detective McKee soon thereafter took the male into custody. The male was identified as Aaron Honaker, who was not the same suspect that the FBI was pursuing. Search incident to arrest revealed a notebook with the names of several banks listed on it and two notes, like those used in our previous bank robberies. The FBI Task Force responded to the scene and took over the investigation. The FBI subsequently interviewed the male at CGPD where he made a full confession to all the bank robberies that he committed in Coral Gables and one bank robbery that he committed in near-by Aventura, Florida.

SYNOPSIS/CONCLUSION

Sergeant Nguyen's insight and initiative were exceptional and directly led to the apprehension of a bank robber responsible for the bank robberies in Coral Gables and one in Aventura. I strongly feel that he is deserving of the Officer of the Month Award and I hope that you agree.

APPROVAL	<u>DATE</u>	DISAPPROVAL		
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Major Jesse Medina Criminal Investigations Division		Major Jesse Medina Criminal Investigations Division		

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INCIDENT/INVESTIGATION REPORT

Coral Gables Police Department

Case # 20-005437

Statu Code	S L=	Lost S	S = Stolen R = R	ecovered D = Dan	naged $Z = Seized$ $B = Burned$ $C = Counterfeit / B$	Forged F = Found
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		ting Off CKEE,		GUYEN, C.T. (7	063)	
					5020	7.7

Suspect Hate / Bias Motivated: None (No Bias)

NARRATIVE

On October 20, 2020 at 1547 hours, I was dispatched to 355 Alhambra Circle (Chase Bank) to assist Sgt. Nguyen (7063) with an investigation. Upon arrival, Sgt. Nguyen and Detective Mckee (7779) had Mr. Aaron Honaker (Involved Other) in custody.

Mr. Honaker was wanted for multiple bank robberies in South Florida. FBI Agent Gerard Starkey and FBI Agent Lanier (FBI Case #91A-MM3330734) responded to scene and took command of the investigation. Mr. Honaker was placed in custody by the FBI's Violent Crimes Task Force.

I transported Mr. Honaker to CGPD to be interviewed by FBI Agent Starkey and then transported him to the Broward County Jail.

CASE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

Printed: 10/28/2020 12:50

Coral Gables Police Department

OCA: 20005437

THE INFORMATION BELOW IS CONFIDENTIAL - FOR USE BY AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

Case Status: CLOSED Case Mng Status: CLEARED BY ARREST Occurred: 10/20/2020

Offense: ASSIST LAW AGENCY

Investigator: NGUYEN, C. T. (7063) Date / Time: 10/26/2020 14:35:14, Monday

Supervisor: LANZ, L. M. (8460) Supervisor Review Date / Time: 10/27/2020 13:33:25, Tuesday

Contact: Reference: Supplement

There have been four robbery incidents in the City of Coral Gables North End Business District since 09/30/2020. The other robberies occurred on 10/05; 10/10; and 10/15. The serial robber would enter the bank and pass a note to the victim teller demanding money.

On October 20th, 2020, I (Sgt. Nguyen/ ID #7063) along with Detective Jimmy McKee (ID # 7079) and in conjunction with officers from the SED and UPD units mobilized to the North End Business District to conduct surveillance in the area for the serial bank robber.

While I am driving my unmarked police vehicle westbound on the 200 Block of Alhambra Circle approaching the intersection of Salzedo Street, I observed a white male standing at the northwest corner of this intersection. I identified the while male as the same wanted serial bank subject that was depicted in the previous bank robberies BOLO. The subject was dressed in a dark shirt and dark shorts and wearing a black sneaker with white trim sole, which matched the similar clothing that the subject donned in the bank robbery that occurred on 09/30/20. I continued to monitor the male subject and noticed that he was pacing on the sidewalk in a half moon like circular motion and appears to be scanning he area. I immediately contacted Detective McKee and informed him of my observation.

I made right turn onto Salzedo Street and continued to monitor the wanted male subject, who at this time continued walking north on Salzedo Street. The subject then crossed the street. Moments later, he returned to the original side of the street. I remained in contact with Detective McKee and informed him of the male suspicious activity and movements. While I was stationery on Salzedo Street at the intersection of Alcazar Avenue, I advised Detective McKee that I have lost sight of the subject and that he was last seen walking westbound into the alleyway. Detective McKee advised me that he was positioned in the alleyway. Subsequently, Detective McKee located the subject and placed him into custody. (See Detective McKee's supplement for detail)

Once the subject was in custody, I requested a marked police vehicle to the scene. Officer Justin Gonzalez (ID # 10924) arrived and secured the male subject inside his vehicle.

The FBI Violent Crimes Task Force (VCTF) was contacted and informed of our apprehension.

Miami Beach TLO Detective Lanier was first to arrive at the scene. Shortly after, Doral PD TLO Detective Starky arrived at the scene. The investigation was transferred to the FBI VCTF. The property discovered on scene were transferred to the members of VCTF.

Detective Starky requested to have the subject transported to CGPD and be interviewed at our station.

Investigator Signature Supervisor Signature

Supplements [Edit] Page 2

CASE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

Printed: 10/28/2020 12:50

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Investigator: NGUYEN, C. T. (7063) Date / Time: 10/26/2020 14:35:14, Monday

Supervisor: LANZ, L. M. (8460) Supervisor Review Date / Time: 10/27/2020 13:33:25, Tuesday

Contact: Reference: Supplement

The interview with the subject was conducted by the FBI members of VCTF at CGPD on the 3rd floor interview CID room # 2.

The subject was later transported to BSO detention center at the request of the FBI.

On October 21st, 2020, I downloaded the interview and photographs of the offender to a DVD-RW and USB Flash Drive. At approximately 1500 hours, I transferred the custody of the property to FBI Special Agent Rosenberg. (Property Receipt uploaded to RMS).

This conclude my involvement with the case.

Investigator Signature

CASE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

Printed: 10/28/2020 12:50

Coral Gables Police Department

OCA: 20005437

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Case Status: CLOSED Case Mng Status: CLEARED BY ARREST Occurred: 10/20/2020

Offense: ASSIST LAW AGENCY

Investigator: MCKEE, J. C. (7779) Date / Time: 10/26/2020 20:32:29, Monday

Supervisor: NGUYEN, C. T. (7063) Supervisor Review Date / Time: 10/27/2020 13:25:25, Tuesday

Contact: Reference: Supplement

On 10/20/20 at 1530hrs, Sgt. Nguyen and I undertook a surveillance detail in order to locate a serial bank robber who had committed several robberies over the past several weeks. At approximately 1546hrs Sgt. Nguyen contacted me and told me that he spotted a potential match for the subject at the corner of Alhambra Circle and Salzedo St. He informed me that the subject was walking North on Salzedo St from the intersection on the West side of the street. Sgt. Nguyen told me that he lost sight of the subject and that he believed he had entered an alleyway which ran just South to 305 Alcazar Ave.

I drove my unmarked vehicle to the alleyway entrance on Alcazar Ave to regain a visual on the subject. The subject was appeared to be walking towards the rear entrance of 355 Alhambra Circle which housed a Chase Bank branch. The subject appeared to be wearing a Grey Dri-Fit style T-shirt and shorts. The subject appeared to see me in my vehicle as I was wearing a tactical vest with "Police" insignia on the front. I was able to immediately recognize the subject as the individual who was involved in the prior incidents as I was privy to the photos and BOLOS that had been issued to identify him. The subject abruptly turned around and then quickly entered the rear of 306 Alcazar Ave.

I followed the subject via the same door he utilized, and it opened to a dark staircase which is utilized by a parking garage. I began up the stairs to locate the subject and heard sounds coming from beneath me. I waited at the top of first flight of stairs and concealed myself. I observed the subject emerge from I later discovered was a bottom floor utility area. He looked around anxiously to see if anyone was around and then he attempted to flee from the same door in which he entered.

I was able to take intercept the subject outside and take him into custody. I observed a bulge on his right side emanating from his waistband and discovered that it was a standard sized claw hammer. Search incident to arrest also revealed a pocket-sized notebook which he had in his right pocket. Inside the notebook where varied lists of banks with some crossed out. The were also an apparent list of instructions (steps) jotted down on how to commit a bank robbery. Finally, there were two separate notes folded in the rear of the pocket notebook which contained instructions to be given to the teller(s) that he was intending on robbing. The defendant had his wallet in his left pocket, and it contained his Florida Driver's License of H526015791030 and identified him as Aaron Patrick Honaker with a DOB of 03/23/1979. The subject confirmed his identity to me. The subject also asked me to locate his bookbag and told me that he had hid it in the lower utility level that he was hiding in.

The subject was held at the scene by Ofc. Justin Gonzalez (10924) and then custody was transferred to FBI TFAs G. Starkey and R. Lanier.

This case will be closed and cleared by arrest.

Investigator Signature Supervisor Signature



CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

2801 Salzedo Street, Coral Gables, FL 33134 • (305)442.1600

BOLO#:

20-290

BOLO DATE:

10/05/2020

Detective:	Emir Moises
Phone #:	305-460-5434
Email:	emoises@coralgables.com
Approved By:	Sgt. C. Nguyen

Case #:	20-005064
Incident:	Bank Robbery (Attempt)
Date/Time:	09/30/20, 1530 hours
Location:	396 Alhambra Circle, Coral Gables,FL

Bulletin	☑ Officer Safety	☐ Criminal Intel	☐ Domestic	☐ Home Invasion	☐ Situational Awareness
	☐ Assault	☐ Battery	☐ PC to Arrest	☑ Robbery	☑ Need to Identify
Classification	☐ Wanted	☐ General	☐ Missing Person	☑ Bolo	☐ Critical

Bank Robbery (Attempt)





SUBJECT NAME	UNK
DRIVER'S LIC#	N/A
RACE / GENDER	WHITE/ MALE
DOB/AGE	30-40 YOA
HEIGHT	5'10 to 6'0
WEIGHT	MEDIUM BUILD
HAIR/FACIAL	FULL BEARD
EYES	LIGHT EYES
CLOTHING	BLACK SHIRT WITH BLACK AND RED SHORTS.
SUBJECT VEHICLE	UNK

On September 30, 2020 at approximately 1544 hours, the above pictured unidentified male entered the Citibank, located at 396 Alhambra Circle, and handed a note to a bank teller. The note said, "Don't touch the alarm or call police." The male subject demanded \$10,000. The bank teller (Victim) advised the male subject that she had no money in her teller drawer and proceeded to walk away from the teller line to report the incident to the Assistant Branch Manager. The subject then proceeded to take the note and exited the bank in an unknown direction. No weapon was shown or seen and no money was taken.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact FBI (Miami) or Detective J. McKee of the Coral Gables Police Department, at 305-460-5436 or jmckee@coralgables.com.







CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

2801 Salzedo Street, Coral Gables, FL 33134 • (305)442 1600

BOLO#:

20-289

BOLO DATE:

10/05/2020

Detective:	Emir Moises		
Phone #:	305-460-5434		
Email:	emoises@coralgables.com		
Approved By:	Sgt. C. Nguyen		

Case #: 20-005161				
Incident:	Bank Robbery (Attempt)			
Date/Time:	10/05/20, 1545 hours			
Location:	2555 Ponce De Leon Blvd, Coral Gables, FL			

Bulletin	☑ Officer Safety	☐ Criminal Intel	☐ Domestic	☐ Home Invasion	☐ Situational Awareness
	☐ Assault	☐ Battery	☐ PC to Arrest	☑ Robbery	☑ Need to Identify
Classification	☐ Wanted	☐ General	☐ Missing Person	☑ Bolo	☐ Critical

Armed Bank Robbery (Gun Implied)





Appliance: AU 66216 Coral Gables Main Camera: 5. C05 Teller 5 Time: 10/05/2020 3:43:50 PM

SUBJECT NAME	UNK		
DRIVER'S LIC#	N/A		
RACE / GENDER	WHITE/ MALE		
DOB/AGE	35-45 YOA		
HEIGHT	6'0 to 6'3		
WEIGHT	MEDIUM BUILD		
HAIR/FACIAL	UNK (FACE COVERED)		
EYES	HAZEL BROWN		
CLOTHING	Dark blue/gray t-shirt, Dark shorts, dark sneakers, dark face covering, dark boonie hat		
SUBJECT VEHICLE	N/A (fled on foot)		

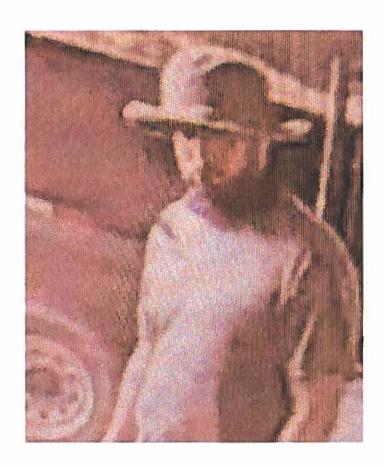
On Monday, October 5, 2020, the unidentified male subject (pictured above) entered the Wells Fargo Bank, located at 2555 Ponce De Leon Blvd., Coral Gables FL. The male subject was in the teller line until he was called by a bank teller (Victim). While at the teller counter window, the unidentified male subject handed the Victim a note that listed several demands. The note also stated that the male subject was armed with a firearm. According to the Victim, the male subject did not brandish a weapon. The male subject told the Victim to give him all the money in her cash drawer. The Victim advised the male subject that she was not able to read the note and requested assistance from the Teller Manager. When the Teller Manager responded to the teller window, the male subject retrieved the note and fled the scene on foot, heading eastbound on Valencia Av. The male subject was not provided with any of the bank's currency. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact FBI (Miami) or Detective E. Moises of the Coral Gables Police Department, at 305-460-5434 or emoises@coralgables.com.

WANTED BY THE FBI



FOR BANK ROBBERY





The UNSUB is wanted for a series of bank robberies that occurred in October 2020, in the City of Coral Gables and Aventura, Florida.

ARMED and DANGEROUS

Anyone with information please contact the Miami Office of the FBI at 754-703-2000, Miami Division, Violent Crime Task Force (VCTF)

WANTED BY THE FBI



FOR BANK ROBBERY





The UNSUB is wanted for a series of bank robberies that occurred in October 10,2020, in the City of Coral Gables.

ARMED and DANGEROUS

Anyone with information please contact the Miami Office of the FBI at 754-703-2000, Miami Division, Violent Crime Task Force (VCTF)