

**AFFIDAVIT OF BRYCE J. FERRARA IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION  
FOR A CRIMINAL COMPLAINT AND ARREST WARRANT**

I, Bryce J. Ferrara, having been duly sworn, hereby depose and state the following:

**INTRODUCTION**

1. I have been a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) since January 2019, and assigned to the Boston Division since May 2019. More specifically, I am assigned to the FBI Boston Violent Crimes Task Force (“VCTF”). As a Special Agent with the FBI, I have conducted investigations dealing with bank and commercial robberies and burglaries, the Hobbs Act, extortion, and crimes against persons. I have also received specialized training regarding investigative techniques, evidence collection, and evidence preservation.

2. I am aware that Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2113(a) and (d) make it a crime for anyone to use force and violence, or intimidation, to take from the person of another, money or any other thing of value belonging to or in the care, custody, control, management, or possession of any federally insured financial institution, and in committing such offense, to assault or put in jeopardy the life of any person by the use of a dangerous weapon or device.

3. I make this affidavit in support of a criminal complaint and an arrest warrant charging Paul Whooten (“Whooten”), DOB: xx/xx/1963, with the armed robbery of a branch of the Rockland Trust Bank, located at 1065 Truman Parkway in Hyde Park, Massachusetts on December 21, 2019. On the date of the robbery, the deposits of the Rockland Trust Bank were insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The facts stated herein are based on my own personal involvement with this investigation, as well as from information provided by other

law enforcement officers involved in the investigation and reports relating to the incident and investigation. In submitting this affidavit, I have not included each and every fact known to me about this investigation; rather, I am only submitting enough evidence necessary to establish the requisite probable cause.

**Rockland Trust Bank – December 21, 2019**

4. On December 21, 2019, at approximately 1:35 PM, a male subject entered the Rockland Trust Bank located at 1065 Truman Parkway in Hyde Park, Massachusetts and brandished a firearm, pointed the firearm at the teller, and said, “Give me all of your money.” The male subject provided the teller with a bag, and the teller and a coworker filled the bag with money from the bank. The teller passed the bag of money back to the male subject, who proceeded to exit the bank on foot.

5. The teller who interacted with the robber described the robber as a white male wearing black clothing and a mask.

6. At the time of the robbery, a Boston Police Department (“BPD”) officer was working a detail in the bank. The officer observed the male subject walk toward the teller’s counter wearing a face mask and holding what appeared to be a firearm. The BPD officer radioed for assistance.

7. Bank surveillance cameras were functioning and operating on the date of the robbery. The cameras captured images of the male subject as he entered the bank, interacted with the teller, and then exited the bank. The cameras captured images of the male subject consistent with the teller’s description. The male subject was further observed in bank

surveillance camera images wearing a long dark coat, a yellow and black reflective jacket, a black knit hat, black sunglasses, and gray and blue gloves. Bank surveillance cameras also captured the male subject dropping money on the floor in front of the teller's counter after receiving it from the teller.

8. A post-robbery audit determined that the robber had taken \$13,603.00 in U.S. currency during the robbery.

### **Arrest of Whooten**

9. When the male subject exited the bank, the BPD officer stationed inside broadcast a description of the male subject's clothing and direction of flight.

10. Shortly thereafter, another BPD officer located outside the bank observed the male subject on the sidewalk outside 1080 Truman Parkway, across and down Truman Parkway from the bank, wearing what appeared to be a dark-colored coat, holding a black rifle-type weapon in his hand, and looking inside a light-colored shopping bag. The BPD officer took cover behind his police department vehicle and issued verbal commands to the male subject to drop the gun and get on the ground. The male subject complied, put the weapon down, and was apprehended by BPD officers on the sidewalk.

11. Upon apprehension of the male subject, a black rifle-type BB gun and a paper shopping bag containing U.S. currency was recovered. Currency recovered from the shopping bag and the floor of the bank totaled \$13,603.00.

12. The male subject, ultimately identified as Paul Whooten, DOB: xx/xx/1963, was transported by BPD for arrest processing. During processing, BPD officers seized a long dark coat, a yellow and black reflective jacket, a black knit hat, black sunglasses, and gray and blue gloves.

13. Whooten was advised of and executed a written waiver of his rights pursuant to *Miranda* and agreed to be interviewed by law enforcement personnel. During the interview, Whooten was asked which bank was the last he had robbed. He responded, "This one right here."

14. I have reviewed the bank's surveillance camera footage and the photographs taken of Whooten's clothing at the BPD station during arrest processing. The individual depicted in the bank's surveillance footage and the images of Whooten's clothing from processing appear to be the same clothing. In both sets of photographs, the clothing includes a long dark coat, a yellow and black reflective jacket, a black knit hat, black sunglasses, and gray and blue gloves.

### **CONCLUSION**

15. Based on the foregoing, I submit that there is probable cause to believe that on December 21, 2019, Paul Whooten, by force and violence, and by intimidation, took from the person and presence of another, money in the care, custody, control, management, and possession of the Rockland Trust Bank, the deposits of which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and in committing such offense, did assault or put in jeopardy the life of

another person by the use of a dangerous weapon or device in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 2113(a) and (d).

Sworn to under the pains and penalties of perjury,

  
Special Agent Bryce J. Ferrara  
Federal Bureau of Investigation



SUBSCRIBED and SWORN to before me on February 25, 2020.

  
HONORABLE M. PAGE KELLEY  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE