

ALERT TOP STORY

Man sentenced for role in armed robbery in Spotsylvania

Keith Epps

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A man who was part of an armed robbery in Spotsylvania County was ordered Monday to serve just over four years in prison.

Michael Brian Allen, 30, of Woodford, pleaded guilty to robbery in Spotsylvania Circuit Court and was sentenced to 10 years, with five years and 11 months suspended. As part of a plea agreement, two abduction charges were dropped.

According to the evidence presented by prosecutor Crystal Montague-Holland, the robbery on Billy Days Road in Spotsylvania was reported on Oct. 13, 2019. One of the victims, Emmanuel Mihai, told police that he and two cousins had arranged to meet with Allen to purchase catalytic converters.

They had previously met with Allen, court records state, and were planning to buy 60 catalytic converters for \$4,000.



Allen

At the meeting spot, Allen told them that the converters were at his brother's house right up the road. When they got there, they were greeted by a man with dreadlocks who was clearly unrelated to Allen.

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The other suspect pulled a gun while Allen displayed a knife. The victims were ordered to get on their knees and hand over the money.

Mihai took the cash from his pocket and gave it to the robbers. After taking one of the victim's phones, Allen slashed the front tire of the victims' vehicle and left with his accomplice in a late-model Ford truck.

Unbeknownst to the suspects, one of the victims had a phone in his car that recorded much of the incident. The license plate to Allen's truck was captured on the video, and he was in the truck in his driveway of his home in Caroline County when police arrived later that night.

Allen admitted to his role in the robbery but said it was set up by a man he knew only as "Bless." He claimed to have received no money from the robbery, but had been promised tattoos by Bless.

Police later determined Bless to be Juoquim Young of Woodbridge, who has a trial scheduled for April 8.

Keith Epps: 540/374-5404

kepps@freelancestar.com

By Keith Epps

Covers crime for Fredericksburg region
