

Repentant robber pleads guilty in Spotsylvania

Keith Epps

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A man who confessed to a robbery that authorities had no idea he'd committed pleaded guilty to a lesser felony charge Tuesday in Spotsylvania County Circuit Court.

Corey Ortega Banks, 30, was convicted of grand larceny from a person. He was taken to jail after entering his plea and will face a maximum penalty of 20 years when he is sentenced Sept. 6.

"Mr. Banks was allowed to plea to the lesser felony because he came forward and took full responsibility for his crime," said Commonwealth's Attorney Travis Bird. "He certainly deserved the benefit of that in this unsolved case."

According to the evidence, a man entered the Four Mile Fork Shell station in Spotsylvania on June 2 of last year and demanded money from the clerk. He told the clerk, "Don't move! Y'all don't do nothing. Open the register and give me the money."

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The robber got a relatively small amount of cash and left the store. No weapon was displayed, though the clerk told police the man reached inside his jacket as if he might have had one.

The robber was wearing a black jacket with a hoodie, sunglasses and white makeup on his face and arms. Similar clothing was found in the nearby woods, and a police dog led trackers to a nearby motel. But the robber was not found.

On Feb. 16, Banks went to the Fredericksburg Police Department and confessed to a robbery. After city police determined that the offense occurred in Spotsylvania, the county Sheriff's Office was contacted.

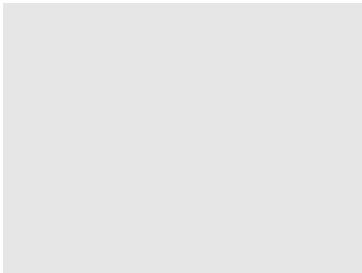
Banks told a county detective that he wanted to confess “for the wrong things I’ve done. That is not the person I want to be, or am. I have been taught better and refused to live with myself and act as if these things didn’t happen because even though I didn’t get caught, they happened.”

Banks told police he got about \$27 in the robbery. He said he committed the crime because of an addiction to pain pills. He said he was not armed.

Banks told the detective that he is a Christian who had already repented to God, “but that’s not enough.”

A friend of Banks told police that Banks told her about the robbery and how sorry he was. The friend said she was shocked to hear what Banks had done because he had served in the Marines and was using his GI money to go to Bible school.

Banks is being represented by attorney Jenna Nacht.



Banks

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By Keith Epps

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