



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

Police Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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“RONALD REAGAN” BANDIT IN CUSTODY

(San Diego) On August 29, 2006, the Bank of America at 6501 Mission Gorge Road was robbed by a man armed with a gun and wearing a Ronald Reagan mask. After entering the bank and brandishing the gun, he dropped it, picked it up and proceeded with the robbery by demanding money from a teller. After receiving cash, he fled on foot. When he arrived at his vehicle, the suspect found that it had been blocked in by two delivery trucks. The suspect removed his mask and argued with one of the delivery drivers before using his vehicle to ram his way free.

During this time the dye pack the suspect had received with the bank money exploded. The suspect drove a few blocks away to Crawford Street where he left his vehicle. The mask and the gun were left in the suspect's vehicle.

San Diego Police Robbery detectives had been investigating Gerald Jones in connection with other robberies in the San Diego area and worked with federal officials to place a parolee at large warrant in the system.

On September 12, 2006, at about 3 a.m., a UCSD police officer noticed a car parked in a faculty parking space. The officer contacted the driver, who identified himself as Gerald Jones. The officer ran a computer check on Jones and discovered the warrant. Jones was taken into custody by UCSD police without incident. A search of the vehicle revealed a handgun and other evidence associated with area robberies. Jones was subsequently booked into jail.

On September 13, 2006, the San Diego Police Department Crime Lab confirmed that DNA recovered from the Ronald Reagan mask matched the profile of Gerald Jones. Jones is a felon with a history that includes arrests for robbery using a firearm and assault with a deadly weapon.

San Diego Police Robbery detectives have forwarded the completed investigation charging Jones with the August 29 bank robbery to the District Attorney's Office. The investigation is continuing into Jones' involvement in other robberies.

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