

## Police: Man Removed Ankle Monitor, Robbed Rogers Bank

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BENTONVILLE — Police believe a suspected bank robber was able to remove a court-ordered ankle monitor and rob another bank, according to court documents filed Thursday.



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Anthony Timothy Barnes (Credit: Rogers Police Department)

Anthony Timothy Barnes, 33, was arrested Tuesday night in connection with that morning's robbery of Metropolitan National Bank, 4201 S. Pleasant Crossing Parkway. Barnes was arrested on charges of aggravated robbery, false imprisonment in the first degree and theft of property.

"We're seeking the false imprisonment charge because of the way he treated the employees while inside the bank," said Capt. Hayes Minor, commander of the criminal investigation division of the Rogers Police Department.

Sgt. Thomas Helmich contacted the company for Barnes' ankle monitor and learned that the global positioning system device showed Barnes had been in the area of his residence on 618 E. Bonnie Lane for about 24 hours on the day of the robbery.

Police say when Barnes robbed the bank Tuesday, he already was free on bond on three counts of aggravated robbery, a Class Y felony; and theft of property, a Class B felony. Those charges stem from three bank robberies in Rogers in May and July of 2009. He was arrested July 3, 2009, and is still awaiting trial on those charges.

Barnes was originally released from the county jail after posting a \$200,000 bond, but his bonding company returned him to the jail.

Barnes had no attorney at the first bond hearing but hired Drew Ledbetter at a hearing to reduce his bond July 28. Ledbetter said Thursday he had no comment on Barnes, but may issue a statement later.

Circuit Judge Jon Comstock granted a request to reduce Barnes' bond, although attorneys in the Prosecutor's Office objected. Comstock set the bond at \$20,000 and ordered Barnes to wear the ankle monitor.

"It's not unusual to see a bond set high if the defendant has no lawyer," said Brian Gallini, associate professor of criminal law at the University of Arkansas Law School. "The defendant doesn't know the legal system or the motions to make. Once a lawyer is hired, his first move is usually to file a motion to reduce the bond."

Gallini said there are a couple of compelling factors judges evaluate when determining bail.

"The top two things that judges look at are the risk of flight and the risk of the person committing a crime while out on bail," Gallini said. "Other reasons such as background, community ties, physical and mental health are two

### At A Glance

#### Possible Sentences If Convicted

Stuart Cearley with the Benton County Prosecutor's Office said the maximum punishment Barnes faces increases with each count if the charges are dealt with separately. For example, if convicted at the first trial Barnes could be sentenced from 10 to 40 years or life imprisonment. A second conviction could mean from 40 to 80 years or life and the third conviction for aggravated robbery would result in an automatic life sentence.

Source: Benton County Prosecutor's Office

factors judges consider.”

A spokesman with Comstock’s office said Thursday the judge did not feel it would be appropriate for him to comment.

According to court documents, Barnes’ latest arrest is not the first since his release from jail July 28.

Rogers police detective Larry Taylor said he learned Barnes was arrested in McAllen, Texas, on Oct. 7 for assault that caused bodily injury to a family member. Barnes’ ankle monitor showed he was at his Rogers residence when he was in Texas, according to court documents. Police obtained the Texas mugshot and compared it with Barnes’ driver’s license and determined they were the same person, but not until after Barnes had been released in Texas, according to court documents.

Barnes denied robbing Metropolitan Bank, according to the probable cause affidavit. Barnes told police he wanted to remain silent when asked about being able to remove the ankle monitor, according to court documents.

According to court documents, Barnes held two Metropolitan Bank employees at gunpoint Tuesday and took \$100 bills, \$50 dollar bills, \$20 bills, \$10 bills, \$5 bills and \$1 bills from the bank. Court documents did not specify the amount taken.

Police learned Barnes rented a storage unit Tuesday from Russell Storage. Police searched the unit and found a backpack, according to court documents. The backpack contained a large amount of money wrapped with a Metropolitan National Bank band, according to the affidavit.

A pair of purple latex gloves also was found in the backpack, similar to ones found at Barnes’ residence and to the gloves the robber wore at Metropolitan bank, according to court documents.

Barnes is being held in the Benton County Jail on a \$250,000 bond for one count of misdemeanor failure to appear and \$605 for another misdemeanor count for failure to appear. His bond is set at \$500,000 for the latest aggravated robbery, false imprisonment and theft of property charges.

Barnes is scheduled to appear Monday morning for a hearing before Comstock.