

LEONARDO M. RAPADAS
Attorney General



PHILLIP J. TYDINGCO
Chief Deputy Attorney General

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Bandana-Clad Robber Convicted

Tamuning, Guam- David Villena Quitugua was found guilty today by a Superior Court Jury after 5 days of trial and 2 days of thoughtful deliberation.

In April, a man clad in a bandana entered a pawnshop in Agana brandishing a 3-inch knife. He then jumped the counter and demanded money from the cashier on shift. He then proceeded to the rear office where another employee was located and demanded the same from her. The employee pushed the business' panic button, which cause the man to panic and flee.

Meanwhile the cashier, who was able to run to a business adjacent to the pawn shop when the man went into the rear office, was met by a woman who called 911 and who observed the man exit the pawn shop, get into a vehicle, and drive away.

Guam Police Officers who responded to the 911 call notified other officers in the field. Minutes later, officers spotted a car driving along Marine Corps Drive in Tamuning matching the description given by responding officers, and police attempted to get the driver-who was identified as Quitugua- to stop. Quitugua accelerated his vehicle trying to escape police and a chase ensued that eventually ended with Quitugua crashing his vehicle into the vehicle of an innocent motorist. Quitugua continued to flee on foot, but was cornered by officers behind a residence and subdued.

"I thank the two victims in this case who came and gave testimony against Mr. Quitugua, as well as the several other members of the general public who testified as to what they witnessed," said Assistant Attorney General James Collins, who prosecuted the case.

"Special mention is due to the Officers of the Guam Police Department's Tumon-Tamuning Precinct, who risked personal injury in pursuing and apprehending Mr. Quitugua, and to the detectives of GPD's Criminal Investigations Division, who followed up in investigating the case and gathering the evidence necessary to put him behind bars," he finished.

"Thanks to the quick action of the victims, the defendant was apprehended and taken into custody. Along with that, their continued involvement and assistance throughout the trial ultimately convicted this defendant," added Attorney General Leonardo M. Rapadas

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Quitugua was convicted of attempted second degree robbery as a second degree felony with a special allegation of the possession or use of a deadly weapon, aggravated assault as a third degree felony with a special allegation of the possession or use of a deadly weapon, eluding a police officer as a misdemeanor, reckless driving as a petty misdemeanor, assault as a misdemeanor, resisting arrest as a misdemeanor and attempted theft by threatening as a petty misdemeanor. Quitugua was also found guilty of having committed these felonies while on pre-trial release for an earlier felony case.

Sentencing is scheduled for March 19, 2014. Quitugua faces 15 to 60 years of incarceration on the robbery charge and the related special allegations alone.

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