



Kenneth P. Thompson
District Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 26, 2014

Kings County District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson Announces a 68-Year Sentence for a Defendant Convicted in Twelve (12) Armed Robberies

Robert Costan Involved in a 34-day Crime Spree in Fall 2012

Brooklyn, New York – Kings County District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson today announced the sentencing of Robert Costan to 68 years in prison, for a crime spree of gunpoint robberies of local stores, from October 17, 2012 until November 20, 2012. A jury convicted Costan, 47, on March 13, 2014 of nine counts of armed robbery, attempted armed robbery, and other charges. Costan robbed five establishments multiple times over the 34-day period.

“As part of his robbery spree, this defendant terrorized hardworking employees and business owners. The long prison time he now faces sends a clear message that those who would disrupt the safety of our communities will pay dearly for their crimes,” said District Attorney Thompson.

The stores hit by Costan were:

Location 1: Tasti-D-Lite, 339 7th Avenue, in Park Slope

Robbed three times by Costan. After the first two robberies, the owner hired a security guard to stay with the clerk. On November 4, Costan struck for the third and final time at this location. He entered while the guard was on a bathroom break. The clerk handed over approximately \$150 to the defendant.

Location 2: Happy Cleaners, 649 Vanderbilt Avenue, in Crown Heights

Robbed three times by Costan. After the first two robberies, the owner installed video cameras. Costan entered the third and final time and the clerk handed the defendant approximately \$200.

Location 3: Apple Laundry at 407 7th Avenue, in Park Slope

Robbed two times by Costan. When Costan came a second time and repeated his demand, the clerk refused to give him any money.

Location 4: Subway sandwich shop at 216 Atlantic Avenue, in Brooklyn Heights

Robbed two times by Costan.

Location 5: Subway sandwich shop at 713 Fulton Street, Fort Greene

On October 30, Costan chose a different Subway store, but the same routine. He waited until the store was empty, approached the counter, showed the gun and demanded money. The clerk ran to back of store and locked himself in a closet. Costan unsuccessfully tried to open cash register. Costan returned November 8, again threatening the clerk with a gun. He said, "Don't be cheap like the last time. Take out the money, or I'll shoot." The clerk gave in to the demand and handed the defendant approximately \$600.

Police arrested Costan on November 22, 2012. During a search, police officers also found two forged driver's licenses, from Virginia and Rhode Island. Costan was identified in a line-up by clerks who were victims from each establishment.

The case was prosecuted by Kori A. Medow and Assistant District Attorney Matthew Wright, supervised by the Bureau Chief Thomas C. Ridges.

Defendant Information

Robert Costan

D.O.B: 06/13/65

Charges:

- Nine counts of Robbery in the First Degree, a Class B Violent Felony
- One count of Attempted Robbery in the First Degree, a Class C Violent Felony
- One count of Robbery in the Third Degree, a Class D Felony
- One count of Attempted Robbery in the Third Degree, a Class E Felony
- Two counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Third Degree, a Class A Misdemeanor

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Contact:

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