

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

PLEA TO SIX ARMED ROBBERIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that James Kevin Johnson, age 55 of Los Angeles, pled guilty to six counts of armed robbery.

On February 8, 2013, Johnson and an associate entered Hesselbein Jewelry Store in Carmel, dressed as PG&E workers, claiming they were there to investigate a gas leak. Once they got the owner and three employees in a back room, they pulled out handguns and ordered all to the floor and bound them with duct tape and zip ties. Two customers who entered the store while the robbery was in progress were forced to the back room. Johnson then emptied the display cases, stealing over one million dollars in watches and rings, in addition to personal items from each victim.

Both robbers got away and the crime went unsolved for over one year until Johnson's DNA was detected on a roll of duct tape left behind. Further investigation developed additional circumstantial evidence including Johnson's partial fingerprint on a clip board. One victim, who although could not identify Johnson's face, was able to pick out his voice from a recorded interview.

Johnson will be sentenced by Judge Carrie Panetta on September 29, 2016, and faces a range of 15 to 25 years in prison.

The case was investigated by Detective Marty Opseth (now retired) of the Monterey County Sheriff's Office.

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