



ROCKFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
420 West State Street
Rockford, Illinois 61101-1288
815-987-5800

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHET EPPERSON
CHIEF OF POLICE

ARREST RELEASE

DATE & TIME 01/04/12 7:26 PM

Bureau: Investigative Services Bureau

Authorized Supervisor: Lt. Marc Welsh

Phone: (815)967-6976

Incident: Armed Robberies

MESSAGE

On Wednesday January 4th, 2012 shortly before 2:00 PM, Rockford Police Officers responded to Rockford Discount and Cigarettes located at 4310 Charles Street in reference to an Armed Robbery to the business. Officers were advised the suspect entered the business armed with a handgun and demanded money from the clerk. The suspect fled from the business with an undisclosed amount of cash. Officers were advised the suspect may have fled in a silver PT Cruiser.

Shortly after 3:00 PM, officers stopped a possible suspect vehicle in the area of E. State and 9th Streets. Timothy J. Bennett and Heather M. Barnes were located in the vehicle.

Rockford Police Detectives conducted follow up investigation on the incident. During the investigation it was determined that Bennett was involved in Armed Robberies at Rockford Discount and Cigarettes on January 2nd, 2012, Subway, 1120 E. State Street, and Rockford Discount and Cigarettes both on January 4th, 2012. Follow up investigation revealed that Barnes was involved in the Armed Robbery at Rockford Discount and Cigarettes on January 4th, 2012.

The following is a list of the charges:

Timothy J. Bennett, 24 years of age, Rockford, Il.

Armed Robbery 3 counts

Rockford Discount and Cigarettes January 2nd, 2012

Subway January 4th, 2012

Rockford Discount and Cigarettes January 4th, 2012

Unlawful Possession of a Firearm by a Gang Member

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No FOID

**Possession of a hypodermic syringe
Various traffic charges**

**Heather M. Barnes, 19 years of age, Belvidere, IL.
Armed Robbery**

The charges against Bennett and Barnes are merely accusations. They are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Photographs of Bennett and Barnes are not being released at this time due to the ongoing nature of the investigation.

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