

Kinston Man Sentenced To 22 Years In Federal Prison For String Of Armed Robberies

By Administrator

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Charles Elliott Nobles, 37, of Kinston, North Carolina was sentenced by Chief United States District Judge James C. Dever, III to 264 months imprisonment followed by 3 years' supervised release. Nobles was named in a two-count Superseding Criminal Information on September 11, 2017. On that day, Nobles pled guilty to Brandishing a Firearm in Furtherance of a Crime of Violence and Aiding and Abetting and Discharging a Firearm in Furtherance of a Crime of Violence and Aiding and Abetting. Between August 24, 2015, and May 15, 2016, a series of armed robberies occurred in the Eastern District of North Carolina area and elsewhere. A total of seven robberies were conducted by various participants including NOBLES. NOBLES was at the helm of the conspiracy and participated in all seven robberies.

Between August 24, 2015 and May 15, 2016 Nobles participated in at least seven Hobbs Act robberies. During the course of the crime spree, Nobles robbed a US Cellular store in Beulaville, attempted a robbery at the Win-A-Lot internet café in Kinston, a Family Dollar store in Pink Hill, a Family Dollar store in Faison, a US Cellular store in Kenansville, a US Cellular store in Snow Hill, and robbed the US Cellular store in Kenansville a second time. During the attempted robbery of the Win-A-Lot internet café, Nobles aided and abetted others who shot a victim in the face.

This case is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), a program bringing together all levels of law enforcement and the communities they serve to reduce violent crime and make our neighborhoods safer for everyone. Attorney General Jeff Sessions reinvigorated PSN in 2017 as part of the Department's renewed focus on targeting violent criminals, directing all U.S. Attorney's Offices to work in partnership with federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement and the local community to develop effective, locally-based strategies to reduce violent crime.

In support of PSN, the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of North Carolina has implemented the Take Back North Carolina Initiative. This initiative emphasizes the regional assignment of federal prosecutors to work with law enforcement and District Attorney's Offices on a sustained basis

in those communities to reduce the violent crime rate, drug trafficking, and crimes against law enforcement.

Investigation of this case was conducted by the Henderson Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Assistant United States Attorney S. Katherine Burnette prosecuted this case.

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