



## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 13, 2015  
Case No. 15-697

On January 13, 2015, at approximately 11:40 a.m., a 49-year-old white male from Indiana entered the Old National Bank located at 6660 S. Westnedge Avenue in Portage. Once inside the bank, the subject made a demand for cash from one of the tellers, at which point he was given an undetermined amount of cash.

As the subject left the bank and was in the parking lot, a dye pack located inside the bag of cash went off, causing him to drop the bag and flee the scene. Witnesses in the parking lot at the time of the incident described the vehicle as a white Chevy Impala.

When officers were responding to the scene, a Kalamazoo County detective was in the area and observed a white Chevy Impala northbound on Westnedge near Milham Avenue. That detective contacted our Communications Center and proceeded to follow the vehicle eastbound on I-94 to Sprinkle, where the suspect vehicle exited the freeway and then returned onto westbound I-94. Within a short time after the subject re-entered the freeway, marked patrol cars from area agencies located the vehicle and attempted to make a traffic stop, at which time the subject fled from police.

The pursuit continued westbound on I-94. In an attempt to bring the pursuit to a safe end, "Stop Sticks" were deployed by the Michigan State Police and Van Buren County. The Stop Sticks were successful and deflated three of the four tires. The suspect continued driving on the deflated tires at speeds of approximately 30 miles per hour. The pursuit eventually ended on westbound I-94 near the Hartford exit. At that time, the suspect was taken into custody without further incident.

During the pursuit, the suspect threw a handgun from his vehicle. There is no indication that the gun was used during the robbery. The gun was recovered.

During this investigation and pursuit, the Portage Department of Public Safety was assisted by the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office, Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety, Michigan State Police, Van Buren County Sheriff's Office, Kalamazoo Valley Community College Public Safety Department, Mattawan Police Department, and Paw Paw Police Department

The Portage Department of Public Safety is currently working with the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office, South Haven Police Department, and the FBI to determine if this robbery is connected with other recent bank robberies in the area.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Portage Department of Public Safety at 329-4567 or Silent Observer at 343-2100, [www.kalamazoosilentobserver.com](http://www.kalamazoosilentobserver.com).

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