

NEWS RELEASE

Alabama Department of Public Safety

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Driver License Check Results in Capture of Tennessee Bank Robbery Suspect

DOTHAN — A routine driver license background check at the Dothan Driver License Office resulted in the capture Thursday of an Alabama man wanted in connection with a Tennessee bank robbery.

Derrick W. Oliver, also know as Derrick Barton, 27, of Rockford, went to the Dothan Driver License Office seeking to reinstate his Alabama driver license. A clerical employee, Administrative Support Assistant Shelia Williams, ran a check through the National Crime Information Center that indicated Oliver was wanted in connection with an armed bank robbery in Memphis, Tenn., March 15.

Driver license employees then contacted the Alabama Bureau of Investigation and Federal Bureau of Investigation. Already working together on the case, the two agencies warned that the subject was considered armed and extremely dangerous.

ABI agents and uniformed state troopers went to the driver license office and arrested Oliver and his female companion, Rehia Palone Barton, 26, of Athens, without incident. Ms. Barton, Oliver's alleged accomplice in the robbery, was in the office's waiting area. Oliver and Barton were then placed in the custody of the FBI and Dothan Police Department.

Alabama is one of only three states that conduct routine background and Social Security checks on all applicants for an Alabama driver license or identification card. During the last fiscal year, driver license employees made a total of 4,801 arrests, 829 for felonies and 3,972 for misdemeanors.

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