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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**DATE: November 19, 2009**

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**RE: Robbery of First Merit Bank - Streetsboro**

On Thursday November 19, 2009 at approximately 10:00am, a black male suspect entered the First Merit Bank branch located at 9717 State Route 14 and passed a note to a teller demanding money or he would shoot her. No other customers were present in the bank at the time of the incident, and a weapon was not brandished.

The suspect then left the bank with an undisclosed amount of money and was observed driving a dark in color Ford Escort by an employee of the bank, who provided a vehicle description to police along with a license plate number.

The suspect vehicle was observed on I-480 in Twinsburg shortly after the vehicle description was broadcast and was stopped by responding Twinsburg police units. The driver matched the description of the robbery suspect, and a loaded .38 revolver along with an undisclosed amount of cash was located in a bag his car. A die pack concealed in the stolen money had gone off as well.

At this time, one count of Aggravated Robbery is being filed against John H. Ford, age 35, with a mailing address of Cleveland, Ohio. As a result of this investigation, Mr. Ford is also now a suspect in at least two (2) other bank robberies in Akron and Stow. Streetsboro PD is working with Stow PD as well as investigators from the FBI Akron Office and the Portage County Prosecutors Office to coordinate further federal charges against Mr. Ford.