

Chicago man arrested for aggravated robbery

Samuel Shabaz, 62, of Chicago, was charged Wednesday with felony aggravated robbery after an incident Nov. 6 at the Tropical Smoothie Café, 7101 W 183rd St., Tinley Park.

The Tinley Park Police Department responded to the business at 6:53 p.m. Nov. 6 after getting a call that a robbery had just occurred. Upon arrival, witnesses provided officers with a detailed physical description of the offender, who they said had implied he had a handgun and stole \$300 before driving away in a black 2004 Toyota Camry. Police used surveillance and license plate reader (LPR) technology to help identify the vehicle used in the robbery, which was determined to be stolen from Schererville, Ind. Police subsequently recovered the stolen vehicle and processed it for evidence. Items recovered inside the vehicle helped to identify Shabaz as the suspect.



During the investigation, detectives learned that the Countryside Police Department had contact with Shabaz four days after the Tropical Smoothie Café robbery during a disturbance call. Tinley Park investigators shared still images from the robbery with Countryside police, who positively identified the man in the images as Shabaz. Notably, Shabaz was wearing the same clothing during his contact with Countryside police as he was during the robbery.

Evidence that police obtained during the investigation placed Shabaz in the area of the Tropical Smoothie Café at the time of the robbery. Investigators showed photo arrays to the victims, who positively identified Shabaz as the offender. Investigators also learned that Shabaz had an extensive criminal history and was convicted and incarcerated for an armed robbery in the past.

The Cook County State's Attorney's Office approved an arrest warrant for felony aggravated robbery, and Shabaz turned himself in on Jan. 14 at the Tinley Park Police Department. A bond hearing is scheduled for Jan. 15 at the Bridgeview Courthouse.

The Tinley Park Police Department extends its appreciation to the detectives and officers whose professionalism and dedication were instrumental in this investigation. Police also want to give special acknowledgment to the Countryside Police Department for their valuable assistance and coordination.

All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.