



# Huntington Beach Police Department

## PRESS RELEASE

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**Release Date:**

<b>TYPE OF INCIDENT:</b> Serial Bank Robber arrested	
<b>LOCATION:</b> Long Beach	
<b>DATE/TIME OF OCCURRENCE:</b> 11-29-06/0455	<b>CASE NUMBER:</b> 2006-22391

**VICTIM INFORMATION** Victim # \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (Use additional page(s) for listing multiple victims)

<b>NAME/AGE/:</b> Wells Fargo Bank
<b>CITY OF RESIDENCE:</b> 16531 Bolsa Chica, Huntington Beach
<b>INJURIES/CONDITION:</b>
<b>WHERE HOSPITALIZED:</b>

**SUSPECT INFORMATION**

**ARRESTED:** YES X NO

**SUSPECT #** 1 **of** 1 .

(Use additional page(s) for listing multiple suspects)

<b>NAME/DOB (OR DESCRIPTION):</b> Robert Nelson Rowell DOB 12-9-60			
<b>CITY OF RESIDENCE:</b> Long Beach			
<b>CHARGES:</b> 5 counts of 211/212.5 PC robbery	1)	2)	3)
<b>BOOKED AT:</b> Orange County Jail			
<b>INJURIES/CONDITION:</b>			
<b>WHERE HOSPITALIZED:</b>			

**DETAILS:** On Saturday, 11-25-06 at 10:25 AM, Huntington Beach police officers were sent to the Wells Fargo bank located at 16531 Bolsa Chica reference a bank robbery which had just occurred there. The suspect fled the area on a bicycle and he was not located. The bicycle was located near the robbery area later by an officer. The bicycle was fingerprinted and a possible suspect's fingerprint was identified. The fingerprint belonged to 45 year old Robert Rowell of Long Beach. Rowell was living in Long Beach at a drug/alcohol rehab home in the 1100 block of Hellman. Huntington Beach and Long Beach officers located and arrested Robert Rowell without incident in Long Beach at a coffee shop near his residence on 11-29-06. Search warrants were served at Rowell's home and his storage locker in Cerritos. A replica

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<b>Press Release Prepared By:</b>	<b>Date/Time on Pressline:</b>
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Distribution:

Chief  
Community Liaison Team Sgt.  
Uniform Div. Commander  
Investigation Div Commander  
Admin Div. Commander

Spec. Ops Div. Commander  
General Investigation Bureau Commander  
Area Commanders  
Patrol Lieutenants

Watch Commander  
Briefing Board  
Traf/Aero Bureau Commander



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handgun was recovered that matched the weapon used in the robbery. Rowell has a bank robbery conviction in the state of Colorado in 1984 and spent time in a Colorado penitentiary.

The FBI "BRAT" team (Bank robbery apprehension team) along with Huntington Beach detectives quickly determined that Robert Rowell was in fact the "Skinny Legs" bandit who is believed to be responsible for committing at least nine bank robberies. Seven bank robberies occurred in Huntington Beach, one in Garden Grove and one in Cerritos. The first bank robbery took place in Huntington Beach on 7-17-06. Rowell is currently in Orange County jail with a bail of \$2 million.



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