



Crime Stoppers of Houston, Inc. February 13, 2007

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ON TODAY'S NEWS

**CONTACT:** Ray Wathen, Communications Manager  
Crime Stoppers of Houston  
Phone: 713-521-4600  
Cell: 832-594-0655

**WHAT:** "Bearded Bandit" Strikes 4 times in 13 months

Crime Stoppers and Harris County Robbery Investigators are asking the public's help with information leading to the identification, arrest and charging of a suspect involved in 4 aggravated robberies in 13 months.

Described as the "Bearded Bandit" because of his habit of wearing a fake beard and mustache in each incident, the suspect has struck alone and accompanied by others. His first lone robbery was November 12, 2005 at the HEB store in the 12900 block of Aldine Westfield.

Accompanied by several other suspects, he struck again March 10, 2006 at the Bertrand Supermarket in the 3400 block of Bertrand. This incident included violence from the suspects by spraying their victims with mace and striking them in the head with weapons. Witnesses said the group left the scene in a silver Volkswagen Jetta or Passat.

On August 2, 2006, the Bearded Bandit and several other suspects robbed the Radio Shack in the 11700 block of East Mount Houston. Here one of the suspects called the Bearded Bandit by the name of "Robert". Here, too, the suspects used mace and hand restraints on their victims.

On December 10, 2006, the Bearded Bandit struck alone at the same HEB store in the 12900 block of Aldine Westfield, robbing the cash booth at gunpoint. He was wearing an all-white outfit of clothes, hat, gloves and fake beard. This time he was caught on the store's surveillance video camera.

The Bearded Bandit is described as a Black Male, 28-35 years old, 6' – 6'2" tall, 210 – 250 pounds, wearing a fake beard and mustache. He is possibly named "Robert", and drives a late model Volkswagen Jetta or Passat.

He has been accompanied by other black males ranging in age from 20 – years old, 5'6" – 5'10" tall, and from 165-175.

Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$5,000 for information leading to the identification, arrest and charging of the Bearded Bandit and/or any of the other suspects involved in these robberies. Anyone with information on these suspects is urged to call Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS (8477). All callers remain anonymous.