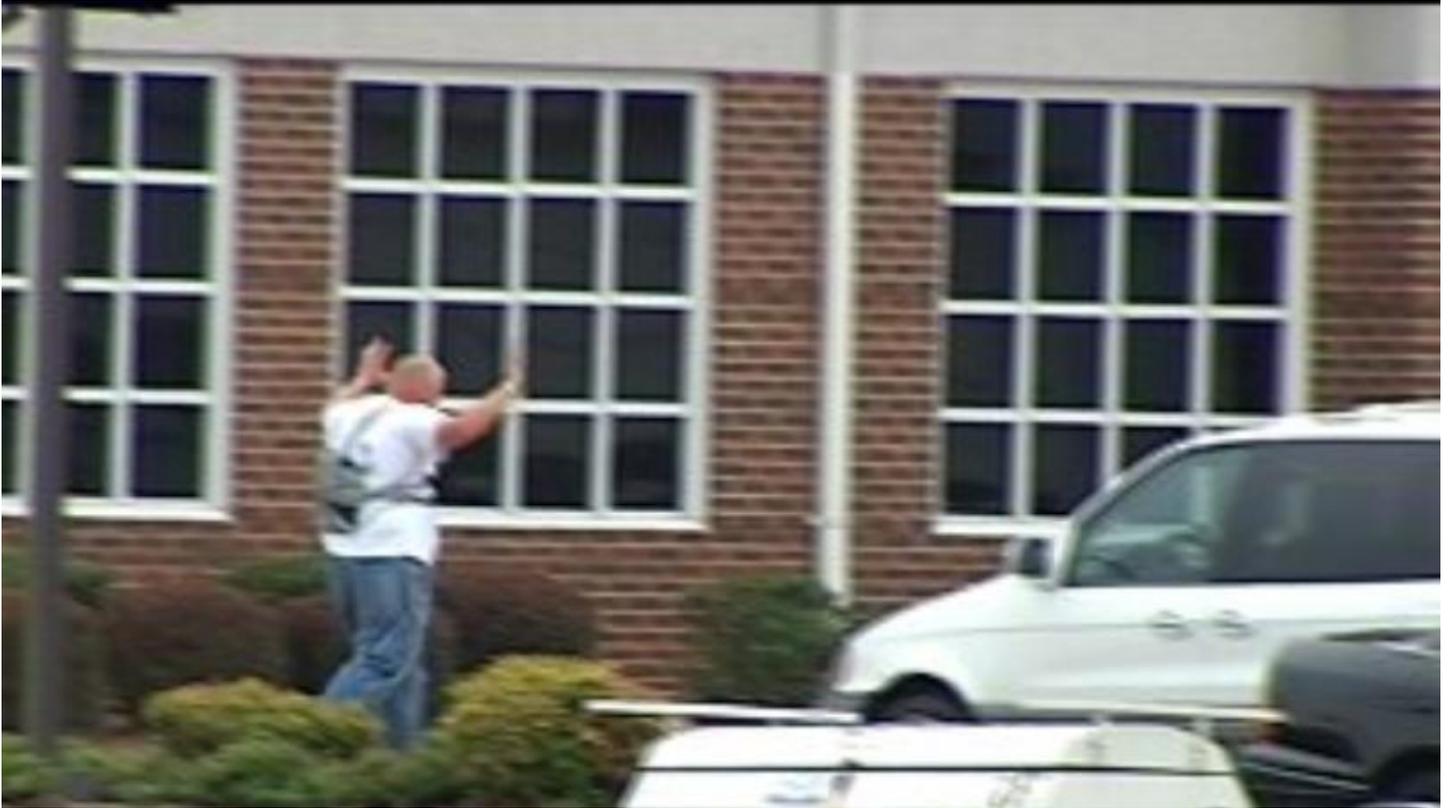


## Attorney Speaks About Harrisonburg Bomb Threat



By Michael Hyland | Posted: Thu 6:05 PM, Jul 15, 2010 | Updated: Fri 3:00 PM, Jul 16, 2010

The attorney for Dr. Michael Smith is giving new details about what Smith says happened Monday morning before the bomb scare at Wachovia Bank on South Main Street in Harrisonburg.

Attorney John Holloran says the incident all started as Smith was heading to work. Smith claims two masked men approached him.

He says they told him to go inside, where allegedly they threatened his dogs.

He says the men demanded money.

With an ATM receipt, Smith showed them he had \$30,000 in his bank account.

Holloran says the masked men claimed to strap a remote-controlled bomb to Smith's back. They allegedly made him wear a jacket into the bank to conceal the device.

The men also allegedly gave Smith 20 minutes to withdraw all the money from his account.

Holloran says Smith wrote a check to himself and got nervous that the teller was taking too long.

That's when he says Smith passed a note to the teller, informing her he was being robbed and that he had a bomb.

Police later said the bomb was not real.

Holloran says police questioned Smith for 12 hours Monday.

The next day, police said in less detail that Smith was telling them a similar account of what happened.

Smith also says he was the victim of a strikingly similar incident in 2006.

Smith reported to police that he was held up at his house and forced to withdraw money from the same bank. His attorney says he does not believe the same suspects are involved with both encounters.

Holloran describes Monday's incident as a "traumatic experience for my client."

No one, including Smith, has been charged following Monday's incident at Wachovia.

Police have released a description of the suspects. Both men are described as wearing black clothes and masks. Smith told his attorney the men were hooded and wearing gloves.

Harrisonburg police are looking for anyone who may have seen the two men.

Anyone with information on the two possible suspects is asked to call Crime Solvers at 540-574-5050.

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