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Previously Charged Bank Robbery Suspect Held

Tampa man, 29, is arrested after MidFlorida branch is robbed Monday.

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THE LEDGER

Published: Tuesday, June 24, 2008 at 6:01 a.m.

LAKELAND | A Tampa man facing federal bank robbery charges from a January incident now faces another count of the same charge after being accused of holding up a MidFlorida Federal Credit Union on Gary Road on Monday.

The suspect, Cornelius Bryant, 29, of Tampa was arrested at a residence on the 1200 block of South Fern Road, about a mile from MidFlorida Federal Credit Union, investigators said.

No one was hurt during the incident, said Jack Gillen, a spokesman for the Lakeland Police Department.

Bryant entered the credit union, at 1511 E. Gary Road, and insinuated to a teller that he had a weapon, Gillen said.

He then fled on foot with an undisclosed amount of money to South Fern Road, where he was found about 12:15 p.m. by Sheriffs Deputy Jon Burcham, his police bloodhound Ponch and Lakeland police, Gillen said.

A bank teller notified authorities of the robbery, Gillen said.

FBI agents temporarily took over the case to interview Bryant. A decision on whether to charge him with a federal crime has not been made, Gillen said.

Lakeland police had custody of Bryant at their department as of Monday evening,



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LAKELAND POLICE crime scene technician Chris Voss checks Monday for fingerprints at the MidFlorida Federal Credit Union at 1551 E. Gary Road. The bank was robbed about 11 a.m. A suspect is in custody.

with plans to transfer him to the Polk County Jail, investigators said.

According to a jail inquiry performed on the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Web site, Bryant, was federally charged with bank robbery in January and was released without bail from jail three days later.

Hillsborough County officials were unavailable to comment. No other information on that robbery was available Monday night.

