

**COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bank robbery suspects arrested after chase arraigned on indictment

Two bank robbery suspects who led police on a chase after holding up a bank near the South Shore Mall in Bay Shore pleaded not guilty at their arraignment today before State Supreme Court Justice John Collins in Riverhead.

The pursuit on January 13 of the armed suspects Murray Hawkins and Kevin Highland, both of Queens, began in Wyandanch about 15 minutes after the bank robbery and ended when the pair crashed their getaway vehicle, a 2015 Ford Escape, into a Nassau County police vehicle in Woodbury.

Hawkins, 35, and Highland, 35, are both charged with robbery in the first degree for the robbery at the Bay Shore bank. Hawkins is also charged with criminal possession of a weapon in the second degree, assault in the second degree and two counts of resisting arrest. Highland is also charged with criminal possession of a weapon in the second degree, unlawful fleeing a police officer in a motor vehicle in the third degree, two counts of assault in the second degree, resisting arrest and an additional charge of robbery in the first degree for allegedly robbing a Capital One Bank in Babylon on December 29.

Justice Collins directed Highland be remanded to the county jail without bail, Hawkins is incarcerated in lieu of one million dollars bail. Both men return to court March 1.

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Be advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.