



# St. Petersburg Police Department News Release

## For Immediate Release

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## Zorro the Bandit is Now in Custody

Arrested: George N. Shaw, Black/Male, DOB: 01-23-59, 11321 North 50th Street, Tampa, Florida.

Between January 26th and February 7th, a suspect referred to by detectives as "Zorro the Bandit" committed eight armed robberies in the Tampa Bay area.

The suspect used the same MO in each case, making a minor purchase as an excuse and then demanding money and pointing a small silver handgun at the clerk. No one was injured in any of the robberies.

The suspect was described as a black male, 40-50 years of age, 5'6 – 5'9", 170-180 lbs, medium skin tone. In all of the cases, the suspect wore a bandana around the top of his head, dark sunglasses and a black fedora hat reminiscent of Zorro – hence the nick name.

Yesterday, Chief of Police Charles "Chuck" Harmon and our Robbery Detectives made a fresh appeal for the public's help with identifying the suspect.

Today, Crime Stoppers received a tip that helped St. Petersburg Police Department Robbery Detectives identify the suspect and St. Petersburg Police Department's Latent Print Examiners matched the suspect's fingerprints to latent prints lifted from an M & M's candy bag left on the counter by the suspect at the time of the CVS robbery, 3426 Central Avenue, on January 29, 2009.

Tampa Police Department officers arrested the suspect near his residence this afternoon and transported him to the St. Petersburg Police Department where he is now being interviewed by detectives from the St. Petersburg Police Department, Tampa Police Department and Hillsborough County Sheriffs Office.

We anticipate walking Shaw to a prisoner transport van in the parking lot behind the St. Petersburg Police Department around 6:00pm - 6:30pm. Chief Harmon will be available to express his appreciation to the community for their help and Robbery detectives will be available for sound on the case.



George N. Shaw