

Lynchburg woman pleads guilty to making false robbery report

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A Lynchburg woman who staged the robbery of the restaurant where she worked planned on doing it again, a prosecutor said Friday.

Lianna Parker, 21, worked at Papa John's Pizza on Old Forest Road in December 2010. Just a week after an elderly man was robbed at gunpoint at his Link Road home less than half a mile away, Parker called police to report the restaurant also had been robbed by a black man with a gun.

Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Chuck Felmlee told the court several witnesses eventually came forward, to say both Parker and her boyfriend admitted to staging the robbery.

Felmlee said the two delivery drivers working in the store the evening of Dec. 27, 2010, reported they had been sent out by Parker on bogus deliveries just before the robbery, leaving her and the store manager alone. Although Parker once told police the restaurant manager was in on the plan, Felmlee said investigators don't believe it. She didn't confess to the robbery being staged until February, more than a

year after the fact, he said.

Instead, investigators believe Parker and her boyfriend, both of whom are white, recruited a black man to stage the robbery.



Parker

"They were planning to set up another fake robbery to make it appear there was a black male on the loose committing robberies in the Link Road area," in order to distract attention from themselves, Felmlee said.

The prosecutor said Parker's boyfriend currently is in jail on drug charges, but prosecutors will seek to indict him later this spring in connection with the theft.

In a plea agreement, Parker pleaded guilty to a felony charge of embezzlement of \$1,100 and a misdemeanor charge of making a false report to police. She was sentenced to 2½ years in prison. In exchange, she was not prosecuted on charges of robbery or use of a firearm in commission of a felony.

She also was ordered to repay the money.

Defense attorney Gordon Peters said the sentence was appropriate

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given Parker's immaturity.

"She is young," Peters said. "She was even younger when she made the poor decision to make some quick money."

However, when he requested a delayed date for the woman to report to jail, Felmlee jumped to his feet and said he strenuously objected, calling her concealment of her role in the robbery a "charade," and accusing her of "shenanigans" for continuing in her refusal to implicate her boyfriend or to identify the armed man who actually perpetrated the robbery.

Judge Patrick Yeatts agreed with the prosecutor and sent Parker directly to jail.