

Robbery accessory pleads guilty

Shawn M. Demers to serve 5-year sentence following plea agreement

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The man accused of helping arrange the robbery of the Old Forest Road Papa John's in December 2010 pleaded guilty Monday in Lynchburg Circuit Court.

Shawn M. Demers, 20, pleaded guilty to robbery and use of a firearm in commission of a felony.

Following a plea agreement, Circuit Judge Patrick Yeatts sentenced Demers to 10 years on the robbery charge, with eight years suspended, and three years on the firearm charge.

The sentences are to run consecutively, giving Demers a five-year active sentence.

Demers' girlfriend, Lianna Parker, a store employee, was sentenced in March to 2 1/2 years in

prison for embezzlement and filing a false police report charges.

Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Chuck Felmlee said in court Monday Demers and Parker set up the Dec. 27, 2010 robbery.

He said the two specifically recruited black men to hold up the store in the wake of a report that a black man robbed an elderly man just days before, and they planned to stage another robbery to throw suspicion away from themselves.

Felmlee said two pizza delivery drivers were sent out of the store on calls either to addresses that

didn't exist or to customers who hadn't ordered pizza.

He said searching the store's phone records turned up no incoming calls during that time, but there were multiple calls made between Demers and Parker's personal phones.

Felmlee said the Commonwealth would have introduced testimony from two others charged in the case: Brandon Carey, who drove the car, and William Bowie, who walked inside and demanded money.

Carey is set for trial Aug. 2; Bowie's trial is scheduled for

Aug. 14. Both are charged with robbery and use of a firearm in commission of a felony.

Felmlee said they would have testified that before robbing the store, Demers purchased a BB gun, and proceeded to stand outside the pizza place while Bowie was inside robbing it.

Felmlee said they would have testified Carey got \$50 for his part, Bowie got \$100, and Demers pocketed \$800 of the \$1,100 that was taken.

Demers, along with his co-defendants, was ordered to pay back the money in restitution.