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Press Release

Fired for stealing, ex-employee returns To stick-up old company – five times

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A 32-year old Milton man has been sentenced to prison after pleading guilty to armed robbery and kidnapping charges in five incidents at three different Public Storage locations in Randolph and Westwood, according to Norfolk DA Michael W. Morrissey.

Zachary Paul was indicted by a Norfolk County Grand Jury in May 2014 for robberies in September and October 2013 and January and February of 2014, according to DA Morrissey. He was finally recognized by a former co-worker who knew him as someone who had been fired for stealing years earlier.

"Assistant District Attorney Laura Greenberg-Chao requested a state prison term of 3 to 5 years, followed by 10 years of probation supervision with conditions meant to address the opiate addiction he claimed prompted the robberies," DA Morrissey said. "Judge Robert C. Cosgrove sentenced him to 2 to 5 years with 5 years of probation, including all of those conditions."

Victims in the robberies told police that the assailant had shown a black handgun, demanded money and ordered them into back rooms or bathrooms at the facilities and told them they were confined there, on threat of death, until he had gotten away – which falls under kidnapping in Massachusetts law. In the single Westwood robbery, Sept. 2, 2013, Paul also made off with the DVR system that recorded surveillance footage at the facility.

"Randolph and Westwood detectives did good work putting this together," Morrissey said. "Police developed probable cause, obtained a search warrant for his home and executed it on March 3, 2014. They recovered a replica handgun and several pairs of sneakers that appeared to match footprints left in two of the robberies. After reading him his rights, they obtained a confession to the four Randolph robberies and the Westwood incident." Paul pled guilty in Norfolk Superior Court on Aug. 19, 2014.