



CITY OF
FORT LAUDERDALE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
PRESS RELEASE

Detective Katherine Collins
Public Information Office
(954) 828-5464
KCollins@fortlauderdale.gov

July 6, 2008

ROBBERY
OF
POLLO TROPICAL

**** Photo Attached Page Two**

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department has arrested 29 year-old Lee Collins in connection to yesterday's robbery of Pollo Tropical located at 1819 South Federal Highway.

According to witnesses, Collins entered the restaurant at approximately 5:00pm and yelled, "Everybody get on the ground!" He continued, "I ain't playing, I'll blow your head off!" At that time, customers complied or ran out of the store in fear for their lives. Collins then robbed a customer who was standing in line and the cashier of the restaurant of an undisclosed amount of money. He then ran away of foot.

Responding officers and K-9 units were on their way to the in an attempt to locate the suspect. Officer Brandon Diaz arrived on scene and began to not only search for the suspect, but also advised innocent citizens in the area of the incident. The discussion became very productive as they had witnessed a man fitting the suspect's description run by moments earlier. Officer Diaz alerted K-9 handlers of his findings and continued to search.

At a facility at 417 SE 18th Court, Officer Diaz saw a man wearing the same clothing as the suspect, but the witnesses soon stated he was not the robber. The officer then located a man fitting the physical description exactly except he was not wearing the same clothing. The man denied being involved in any robbery however claimed he saw the suspect first hand. The eyewitness arrived at their location and positively identified the suspect, Lee Collins, as the man who robbed the restaurant less than one hour prior. Collins was then arrested. Later, Collins provided a full confession and lead officers to where the cash was hidden.

Lee Collins was charged with Robbery.

(more)



Collins, Lee

###