Ex-Papa John's worker pleads guilty to attempted robbery

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An ex-Papa John's employee pleaded guilty Friday to trying to rob a former co-worker during a pizza delivery.

Michael Daugherty, 20, of Lynchburg, pleaded guilty to one count each of attempted robbery and unlawfully wearing a mask in public. He fac̶e̶s̶ ̶u̶p̶ to 15 years in p̶ri̶son at his Nov. 17 hearing.

On April 29, a Papa John's driver arrived at a Holmes Circle apartment to deliver a pizza, said Chuck Felmlee, Lynchburg deputy commonwealth's attorney.

When the driver began leaving his car, he noticed a man with a covered face walking toward him holding something, Felmlee said.

The driver slammed the door shut and sped off. As he left, he noticed a second man nearby.

Police went to the apartment, where Daugherty told them he had planned to grab the driver, throw him to the ground, hold a knife to his neck and rob him, Felmlee said.

Daugherty told police he knew the driver because they used to work at Papa John's together.

Police still are deciding whether to bring charges against the other man, whom Daugherty said would have helped with the robbery attempt, Felmlee said.