

# ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

4997 Unami Boulevard, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

**Theodore F. L. Housel**  
Prosecutor

---

## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release  
Nov. 4, 2008  
1 Page(s)

For further information contact:  
Madelaine Vitale 609-909 -7855  
or 609-457-7359

---

MAYS LANDING – A Somers Point man was sentenced to five years in prison without parole eligibility Wednesday for possession of a firearm having previously been convicted of a crime, First Assistant Prosecutor Murray Talasnik stated. This sentence was imposed under a provision of the law requiring mandatory prison terms for repeat offenders found to be in possession of firearms.

Superior Court Judge Bernard E. DeLury Jr. sentenced Dwight Qawi Jr., 24, of Shore Road, after his attorney tried to withdraw the defendant's March 10 guilty plea, Assistant Prosecutor Harlee Stein said.

At 9:07 p.m. on June 10, 2007 Somers Point Police responded to a residence for a domestic violence call where they arrested Qawi after checking him for a weapon and found him to be in possession of a pellet gun.

Qawi was transported to the Atlantic County Justice Facility where bail was initially set at \$35,000 cash or bond and later increased to \$75,000 cash or bond, Stein said. The defendant made bail but was subsequently rearrested on drug distribution charges and has been held in the jail since July 2008. Those charges are pending further court proceedings.

**\*\*\*With respect to the pending charges they are merely accusations and not proof of guilt. In all criminal cases, a charged defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.**

Anyone with information involving serious crimes is asked to call the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office at 609-909-7800 or go to the Prosecutor's Office Web site at <http://www.acpo.org/tips.html> and provide information by filling out the form anonymously on the Submit a Tip page. People can also call Crime Stoppers at 609-652-1234 or 1-800-658-8477 (TIPS). Crime Stoppers offers cash rewards for information leading to the arrest and indictment of those who commit crimes in Atlantic County.