

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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NEWS RELEASE

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MAYS LANDING – Superior Court Judge Albert Garofolo sentenced former Atlantic City Council President Craig Callaway to three years in State Prison Thursday for his role in the April 2007 videotaping of Atlantic City Councilman Gene Robinson in a sex act with a prostitute, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced Thursday.

On Nov. 21 Callaway, 49, pled guilty to conspiracy to commit invasion of privacy. He admitted at his plea hearing that he agreed with two other co-conspirators to videotape Robinson in the sex act. He also told the Court that he obtained the two rooms in an Absecon motel room without Robinson's knowledge.

The sentence imposed by Judge Garofolo Thursday was in accordance with the plea agreement and will run concurrent with the federal prison term.

Callaway, 49, is currently serving a 40-month sentence for an unrelated bribery scheme, Chief Assistant Prosecutor James McClain stated. In accordance with the plea, the prosecution agreed not to call Callaway to testify at the trial of any remaining defendants about their roles in the crime.

At Thursday's hearing the defense attorney said his client, who did not wish to speak prior to sentencing, was a good client for probation. In response to defense comments, Judge Garofolo did not dispute that in some respects Callaway was a good candidate for probation. In addition, the judge considered it a moot point because Callaway is in federal custody. In addition, the judge found that the aggravating factors, Callaway's prior federal conviction, his likelihood of re-offending and the need to deter, outweighed Callaway's prior cooperation with law enforcement and required the State Prison term.

During the November plea hearing, Callaway admitted that he conspired with his brother Ronald Callaway and Floyd Tally to videotape Robinson in a sexual act without Robinson's knowledge. Callaway also told Judge Garofolo that in furtherance of the conspiracy he obtained two motel rooms in Absecon, McClain stated.

In August of 2007 an Atlantic County Grand Jury indicted Callaway, Tally, Ronald and David Callaway, as well as Atlantic City Councilman John Schultz, for the alleged crimes.

Craig Callaway was indicted on two counts of conspiracy to commit criminal coercion; two counts of conspiracy to commit invasion of privacy, one count of criminal coercion, two counts of invasion of privacy and one count of tampering with witnesses. Schultz was indicted on one count of conspiracy to commit criminal coercion, one count of conspiracy to commit invasion of privacy, one count of criminal coercion, and one count of invasion of privacy. Ronald Callaway, David Callaway and Tally each were indicted on one count of conspiracy to commit criminal coercion, one count of conspiracy to commit invasion of privacy, one count of criminal coercion and two counts of invasion of privacy.

Floyd Tally is also charged with one count of tampering with witnesses. The remaining defendants are scheduled for status conferences Jan. 13, 2009.

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.