

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

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MAYS LANDING – A Pleasantville man pled guilty to nine counts of burglary and one count of theft from a person for numerous “smash and grab” type incidents at businesses throughout the county, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced Friday.

Maurice Forrest, 47, broke into nine businesses, including delis, dry cleaners and dollar stores in Somers Point, Absecon, Northfield, Hamilton Township, Egg Harbor Township, Galloway Township and Pleasantville. In the majority of these burglaries the defendant would hurl a brick through the door or window of the businesses. Forrest would then enter the building and remove the cash register. As a result the business owners suffered thousands of dollars in property damage, Assistant Prosecutor Janet Gravitz stated.

Forrest will be sentenced to five years in prison for theft from a person. The state will also seek consecutive prison time on each of the burglary counts, Gravitz said. The sentencing is scheduled for Feb. 6 before Superior Court Judge Bernard E. DeLury.

Forrest was arrested and charged in January 2008 with the crimes He remains at the Atlantic County Justice Facility on \$75,000 bail.

*****These charges are merely an accusation and not proof of guilt. In all criminal cases, a charged defendant is presumed innocent unless and until 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.