

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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NEWS RELEASE

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MAYS LANDING – A Superior Court Judge sentenced an Absecon man to four years in prison in connection with a second-degree bank robbery, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced Friday.

Nicholas Barbera, 24, must serve 85 percent of the prison term before parole eligibility in accordance with a February 2009 plea agreement, which provided for a New Jersey State Prison term of three to five years. The term of years, in that range, was in the Judge's discretion.

On Oct. 10, 2008, Barbera went to the Commerce Bank located on Route 30 in Absecon. He threatened a teller and demanded money. Barbera exited the bank with approximately \$3,700. He was not arrested at the scene and officers were unable to locate him immediately following the incident. He was apprehended at an airport in Nashville, Tennessee a week after the crime.

During Friday's proceeding Barbera first apologized for the trouble that he had caused the Court, the victims and his family and asked Superior Court Judge James E. Isman to impose the minimum term of three years in prison. According to Assistant Prosecutor Anne Crater, the Judge imposed a four-year term, explaining to the defendant that the seriousness of the crime and the fact that the defendant was being sentenced in a third-degree range for a second-degree crime warranted a sentence of four years. The defendant followed his apologies by telling the Judge, "You should have given me three years, you're a ...(two word expletive)."

Judge Isman calmly responded that the defendant's reaction made it clear that he deserved the sentence he was given, Crater stated.

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.