

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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Theodore F. L. Housel
Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

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MAYS LANDING – A South Carolina man entered a guilty plea Monday to one count of forgery for a lottery ticket scam in which he would con people into believing he won thousands only to give them losing tickets in exchange for their cash, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced.

Alvin Summers, 38, of South Carolina, admitted in Court Monday that on several occasions in December 2008 he would go to various public places and pretend to win cash prizes from lottery scratch-off tickets that were realistically altered. He would then make excuses for why he could not cash the tickets. He would tell the victims that he had debts, including back child support, only to scam them out of thousands of dollars, Assistant Prosecutor Tracey O'Brien stated.

Summers would sit in a cab and lobbies and shout that he had just won thousands of dollars. He would offer to sell the winning tickets to unsuspecting onlookers at discounted rates of \$2,000 to \$4,000. In all, about \$8,000 was stolen.

In accordance with the plea agreement he will be sentenced to time served but in addition, he must make restitution to any identifiable victims of the scheme.

"I believe that there are likely other victims out there and I would like them to contact our office," O'Brien said.

On Dec. 21, 2008 Atlantic City police arrested Summers after one of the victims pointed Summers out to the officer. He remains in the Atlantic County Justice Facility pending sentencing.

Summers will be sentenced before Superior Court Judge Albert Garofolo at a future date.

*****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.**