

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

4997 Unami Boulevard, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

Theodore F. L. Housel
Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
April 9, 2009
1 Page(s)

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

MAYS LANDING – A Philadelphia man entered a guilty plea Thursday to second-degree robbery in connection with a March 9, 2008 assault on a 66-year-old Bally's Atlantic City employee, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced.

Steven Samuel, 45, faces up to 10 years in State Prison when sentenced on May 15. He must serve 85 percent of the prison term before parole eligibility.

During Thursday's hearing the defendant admitted attacking a coat-check employee in the service elevator as she finished her shift. In the course of attacking the victim he grabbed her cash bag. When she would not let go of the bag Samuel struck the woman in her face causing her to fall to her knees. Another employee came upon the defendant as he was kicking the victim while she was in the elevator. Samuel fled with the cash bag containing \$155.75. The employee ran after him and pointed him out to security guards, Assistant Prosecutor Janet Gravitz stated.

The victim was taken to the hospital for treatment of her wounds. The money in the cash bag was recovered. Samuel was arrested and charged with the robbery. He was lodged in the Atlantic County Justice Facility where he remained pending trial. On Thursday bail was revoked at the State's request.

A jury was selected Monday and the trial was set to begin April 13 before Superior Court Judge James Isman.

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.