

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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Theodore F. L. Housel
Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
May 5, 2009
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MAYS LANDING – A Maryland man entered a guilty plea on counts of attempted murder and sexual assault for a 2008 attack on a former girlfriend in an Egg Harbor Township motel. He will be sentenced to 14 years in New Jersey State Prison, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel stated Tuesday.

Pursuant to the terms entered into on Monday afternoon, Gerald J. Brookhart, 43, of Fallston, must serve 85 percent of the prison term imposed. Sentencing will be before Superior Court Judge Bernard E. DeLury on a date yet to be determined. Brookhart waived his right to appeal the conviction. At the time of sentencing the agreement calls for the Court to impose a Nicole's Law restraining order, which prohibits the defendant from having contact with the victim for life. In response to the Judge's questioning, Brookhart stated that he forced the victim to penetrate herself with an object. He also admitted that he used his hands and the weight of his body to manually strangle the victim to unconsciousness. When asked about the relationship between the defendant and the victim, Brookhart stated she was an ex-girlfriend, according to Chief Assistant Prosecutor Ellen Loughney.

At 1:01 p.m. on May 18, 2008, Egg Harbor Township Police responded to the Economy Inn Motel located on the Black Horse Pike in the West Atlantic City section of the township, for a report of an assault in progress, Chief Assistant Prosecutor Loughney said. When police arrived the door was barricaded from within and upon gaining entry they located the victim unconscious on the floor with the defendant standing over her.

*****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.