

sherATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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NEWS RELEASE

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1 Page(s)

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MAYS LANDING – An Egg Harbor City man was charged May 1 with perjury and false swearing for testimony in connection with a December 2007 robbery case which was tried before a jury last week, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced Tuesday.

Omar Pardo, 30, told an Atlantic County jury on Thursday in the Antonio Pratts trial that female acquaintance of the defendant told him that she took money that Pratts was accused of taking. Pardo adamantly testified that the acquaintance relayed this information to him at an Egg Harbor City restaurant on or about Christmas Day of 2007. However, Detective William Hess investigated and found that the two could not have met. The acquaintance was housed in the Atlantic County Justice Facility from Dec. 20, 2007 through Jan. 3, 2008.

“My office will vigorously charge and prosecute crimes that interfere with the administration of justice including perjury and false swearing,” Prosecutor Housel said. Pratts was convicted prior to the perjury charges being filed. Pardo was convicted of sexual assault in a separate trial which was occurring at the same.

If convicted of perjury, a third-degree charge, Pardo could face three to five years in prison. False swearing is a fourth-degree offense and carries a term of up to 18 months in prison. The latter charge arose out of an earlier sworn statement Pardo gave to a defense investigator, according to Assistant Prosecutor John Maher.

*****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.