

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
May 14, 2009
2 Page(s)

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MAYS LANDING – A Pleasantville man convicted in March of multiple domestic violence offenses involving attacks on his ex-girlfriend and her roommate was sentenced to 29 ½ years in prison, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced Thursday.

Robert Souvenier, 38, must serve at least 8 years in prison before parole eligibility for the June 2006 crimes. An Atlantic County jury convicted Souvenier on March 25 of multiple counts of weapons offenses, aggravated assault, terroristic threats, false imprisonment, criminal restraint, two counts of possession of a weapon by a convicted person and theft from the person.

Prior to imposing sentence, Superior Court Judge James E. Isman described the trial as a study in modern domestic abuse.

“This defendant was a poster man for domestic violence,” Judge Isman said.

Assistant Prosecutor Harlee Stein asked the Court to impose an extended term to send a message to the defendant and others that domestic violence has got to stop. The Judge granted the motion.

“In today’s society you read about the murder suicides in the paper and people need to understand that this affects more than just the person you are living with. It’s not O.K. to put your girlfriend in the trunk,” Stein said. “It’s not O.K. to threaten people and it is not O.K. to hit people, yet it happens all of the time.”

Both victims and their families attended sentencing in support of the State. The male victim spoke of how he feared for his life and how he was disabled from previous injuries but he had to help because he thought that his roommate was going to die. Stein read a letter written by the female victim in which she asked that Souvenier be incarcerated for the maximum allowed under the law and said that when he beat her up she thought her life was over.

On June 6, 2006, Souvenier went to his girlfriend's residence on Whaler's Drive in Pleasantville. Once inside, an argument began. Souvenier turned the argument physical. He repeatedly beat the woman over a period of hours hitting her in the head, face and body. He then retrieved a knife and stabbed her, strangled her until she almost passed out and threatened to kill her. When her roommate attempted to rescue the victim, the defendant beat him over the head with a Black Jack, a solid lead spring-weapon. Souvenier continued to assault both victims. He ordered them to disrobe and get into bed and told them that he was going to kill them both and make it look like an accident. The defendant later took the vehicle. He was subsequently arrested at 2 a.m. in front of the Pleasantville bus station on West Jersey Avenue. He was indicted by an Atlantic County Grand Jury on March 15, 2007.

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.