

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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Theodore F. L. Housel
Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

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MAYS LANDING – An Atlantic City man was sentenced today to five years in prison for one count of aggravated assault for seriously injuring his girlfriend during an altercation in their home, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel stated.

Thomas Heston, 48, must serve 85 percent of the prison term imposed by Superior Court Judge James E. Isman before parole eligibility. Upon release the defendant is subject to three years of parole supervision, according to Assistant Prosecutor David Ruffenanch, who represented the State.

On July 30, 2008, Heston and his now former girlfriend were at their home in the 100 block of Westminster Avenue in Atlantic City, when they had an argument. It resulted in the victim suffering a ruptured spleen. The victim was rushed to the AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center, City Campus, where she underwent emergency surgery for severe bleeding into her abdominal cavity. Atlantic City Police arrested Heston two days later.

“Fortunately the victim survived,” Ruffenach said.

On April 28, 2009, Heston, who was indicted Oct. 30, 2008, entered a guilty plea to the charge of aggravated assault. During the hearing he admitted that he pushed his girlfriend, she fell into a coffee table and suffered a ruptured spleen.

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.