

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

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MAYS LANDING – A Philadelphia man was sentenced to six years in prison today for assaulting and taking a cash bag from a Bally's Atlantic City employee in March 2008, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel stated.

Steven Samuel, 46, must serve 85 percent of the prison term before parole eligibility. On April 9, after jury selection, the defendant entered a guilty plea for second-degree robbery in connection with a March 9, 2008 assault of a 66-year-old Bally's Atlantic City employee. The defendant agreed that the sentence would be at the discretion of the Judge, Assistant Prosecutor Janet Gravitz said.

Gravitz told the court that the defendant targeted the victim because of her age and unsteady gait. "In spite of this nightmare the victim continues to work so she could take care of her family."

Prior to Superior Court Judge James Isman imposing the sentence the defendant apologized for hurting the victim.

Samuel admitted at the April plea hearing that he attacked a coat-check employee while she was in a service elevator. 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. A cocktail waitress was leaving the service bar when she heard commotion and the elevator doors open and the employee saw Samuel kicking the victim. Samuel took off with the cash bag containing \$155. The employee ran after him and pointed him out to an off-duty security guard who apprehended him, 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 and transported to the Atlantic County Justice Facility. Samuel was indicted in April 2008.

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.