

# ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

4997 Unami Boulevard, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

**Theodore F. L. Housel**

**Prosecutor**

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## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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For further information contact:

Madelaine Vitale 609-909 -7855

or 609-457-7359

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**MAYS LANDING** – A Maryland man was sentenced today to 14 years in New Jersey State Prison for the attempted murder of his girlfriend in connection with a 2008 attack in an Egg Harbor Township motel, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel stated.

Gerald J. Brookhart, 43, of Fallston, must serve 85 percent of the prison term imposed before parole eligibility and upon release on the attempted murder count he will be subject to five years of parole supervision. In addition, the defendant was sentenced to a concurrent 10-year prison term for sexual assault on the same victim during the same incident. Brookhart waived his right to appeal his conviction and consented to a Nicole's Law restraining order, which prohibits the defendant from having contact with the victim for life. He is also subject to Megan's Law registry requirements on the sexual assault count and parole supervision for life, 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.

Brookhart pled guilty to the crimes on May 4, 2009. During the hearing he admitted 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 that she was an ex-girlfriend, Loughney said.

Superior Court Judge Bernard E. DeLury handled Brookhart's plea. Superior Court Judge Albert Garofolo presided over today's sentencing.

**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.**