

# ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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**Prosecutor**

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## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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**MAYS LANDING** – A Superior Court Judge sentenced a Maryland man to life without parole plus 45 years in prison today for three first-degree armed robberies and two second-degree robberies at establishments in Atlantic County in February of 2006. In addition, the defendant was sentenced for three counts of witness tampering, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced.

Following a three-week trial, Aaron Orr, 26, of Waldorf, was convicted on Dec. 4 of a 2006 robbery spree. He committed an armed robbery at a 711 in Linwood on Feb. 19, one at Primo's Pizza in Somers Point on Feb 18, an armed robbery at the Burger King in Somers Point on Feb. 20 and robberies at a Dunkin Donuts in Hamilton Township on Feb. 17 and a Dairy Queen in Hamilton Township on Feb. 14, according to Assistant Prosecutor Mario Formica.

On the eve of the original trial date in May of 2009, Formica received information from Egg Harbor Township Detective Heather Stumpf indicating that some of the victims of the armed robberies were contacted by phone and received threats should they appear at trial. Two victims retained the caller's phone number and passed it on to police. The information led to Orr, his sister Kendahl Orr and her boyfriend Paul Provost.

The trio was indicted on the witnesses tampering charges in June of 2009 and those charges were joined for the December robbery trial. The defendant's sister and Provost, both of Waldorf, Maryland, who were in their teens, received suspended three-year sentences in January after entering guilty pleas to conspiracy to commit witness tampering and testifying for the State.

Superior Court Judge Bernard E. DeLury sentenced the defendant to a mandatory term of life in prison without the possibility of parole on one of the armed robbery convictions, based upon the State's application under the "Three Strikes" law. That law requires a defendant convicted of robbery to be sentenced to a term of life in prison without parole if he was previously convicted of a two similar offenses that occurred on two separate occasions. However, under the "Three Strikes" law, a defendant may be released at age 70 if deemed no longer a threat to society. The State was able to show that Orr was convicted of two armed robberies in the state of Maryland in 2002 and 2003, Formica said.

“This defendant is deserving of this most serious penalty in these circumstances,” Prosecutor Housel stated. “Apparently he felt comfortable preying upon legitimate businesses as he caused fear and terror in the employees working there. His intent to terrorize manifested itself again when he caused his sister and her boyfriend to attempt to threaten these innocent victims. His removal from society is more than justified.”

At the State’s urging, in addition to Orr’s sentence of life without parole, the defendant was sentenced to consecutive terms of imprisonment on two other first-degree armed robberies, two second-degree robberies and the witness tampering convictions, totaling an additional 45 years, of which he must serve 25.5 years before being eligible for parole. In doing so Judge DeLury agreed with Formica that the defendant’s conduct was calculated, picking separate vulnerable victims who were working alone in their businesses establishments in separate locations on separate dates. In light of such circumstances, the Judge reasoned that it was “hard to fathom” a defendant more deserving of consecutive sentences in addition to a sentence of life in prison.

Following sentencing Formica credited the courage of the victims and the witnesses who came forward and great police work of the Hamilton, Linwood and Somers Point police departments in the apprehension of Orr.

**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) or visit the Crime Stoppers Website at <http://www.crimestoppersatlantic.com/>. Crime Stoppers offers cash rewards for information leading to the arrest and indictment of those who commit crimes in Atlantic County.**