

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 to 18 years in prison today for first-degree armed robbery, second-degree aggravated assault while eluding, and two counts of second-degree distribution of over half an ounce of cocaine, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel stated.

Rason Leach, 30, must serve 12 years and six months of the prison term before he is eligible for parole. Superior Court Judge Bernard E. DeLury Jr. presided over the sentencing.

During an undercover investigation the defendant sold drugs to an undercover officer on May 24, 2007 in Pleasantville, and again on June 14, 2007, while in Atlantic City. On July 11, 2007, Leach met with the undercover officer, but instead of selling him cocaine, Leach pulled out a handgun, took \$1,875 in cash from the officer and fled in a vehicle. Leach drove his car from Pleasantville onto the White Horse Pike and into the Venice Park section of Atlantic City, with detectives from the Prosecutor's Office in pursuit. While he was attempting to flee from police, he put his vehicle in reverse and slammed into the front of a Prosecutor's Office undercover vehicle. During the apprehension of Leach, three detectives suffered minor injuries and were treated and released from area hospitals, according to Assistant Prosecutor Erin M. Bisirri.

On Feb. 18, 2010, Leach entered guilty pleas to the four most serious counts in the indictment. "At some point criminals will realize that violating our laws, especially those involving victims, drugs and weapons, is not worth the cost of their liberty," Bisirri stated.

"This case demonstrates with crystal clarity the dangers that law enforcement officers face in this Office's continuing obligation to serve the public in its attempt to eradicate the scourge of drugs in Atlantic County and to bring drug dealers to justice. Our citizens should know that practically every day law enforcement officers put their safety and lives on the line," Prosecutor Housel said.

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.