

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

4997 Unami Boulevard, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

Theodore F. L. Housel

Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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For further information contact:

Madelaine Vitale 609-909-7855

609-457-7359

MAYS LANDING— A Pleasantville man was sentenced to eight years in prison today for robbery and possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose in connection with a 2008 home invasion in Pleasantville, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced.

Laquae Anderson-Byard, 21, must serve 85 percent of the prison term before parole eligibility in accordance with a March 2010 plea agreement. On April 24, 2008 at 3 a.m., the defendant, armed with a .22-caliber rifle, along with two other males, barged into apartment 302 in the Sassafra Run Apartment complex, held the victims, whose names are not being release due to the nature of the crime, at gunpoint, ordered them to the floor and stole various items from the victims, including a cell phone and approximately \$700 in cash. Anderson-Byard and his accomplices then fled on foot. Pleasantville police responded to the residence after they received a 911 call from one of the victims. Anderson-Byard and a juvenile male were arrested later that day in Pleasantville. The juvenile's case was adjudicated in Family Court prior to Anderson-Byard accepting a plea agreement. The other male has never been identified, according to Assistant Prosecutor John Flammer.

“Because he used a gun, Mr. Anderson-Byard’s actions had the potential to cause serious physical harm to his victims. There is no doubt, however, that his actions have affected them emotionally,” Flammer said. “Mr. Anderson-Byard is still a young man and this is his first adult conviction. To his credit, he took full responsibility for his actions and has apologized to his victims while pledging to be a better person after he serves his sentence.”

Prior to being sentenced the defendant addressed the victim’s family. He said he was sorry for his actions and hopes that upon his release from prison, he will be a better person, according to Flammer.

Superior Court Judge Albert Garofolo presided over the 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) 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.