

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

4997 Unami Boulevard, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

Theodore F. L. Housel

Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

July 16, 2010

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For further information contact:

Madelaine Vitale 609-909-7855

609-457-7359

MAYS LANDING— A Superior Court Judge sentenced an Atlantic City man to 25 years in prison today for aggravated assault and unlawful possession of a rifle for a 2006 attack following a verbal altercation with another Atlantic City man, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel stated today.

Christopher Fountain, who is already serving a 22-year prison sentence for an unrelated shooting, must serve 17 years of the 25-year-prison term before being eligible for parole. The sentence imposed today must also run consecutive to the sentence he is presently serving, according to Assistant Prosecutor Mario Formica.

Evidence produced at the weeklong trial in June, showed that on Oct. 9, 2006, Fountain, 31, and Gordon Huggins, 41, had a verbal altercation on the sidewalk in the 300 Block of N. South Carolina. Fountain left the area, returned with a rifle and shot Huggins once at point-blank range in the abdomen, before fleeing. The victim was taken to the AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center, City Campus, where he remained hospitalized for 14 days. Following Huggins' release, he moved out of state for fear of his safety. Fountain was charged several months later after the victim contacted the police from out of state and provided a statement detailing the incident, Formica said.

Superior Court Judge James Isman's agreed with Formica's application to sentence Fountain to an extended term based upon the defendant's previous conviction for aggravated assault.

"This is truly an individual deserving of an extended term in that this represents his second shooting conviction and essentially makes him a predator upon society," Formica said.

Prior to imposing sentence, Judge Isman called Fountain one of the most dangerous defendants who ever appeared before him.

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.