

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Aug. 20, 2010

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MAYS LANDING— A Cumberland County man charged on Wednesday night with first-degree aggravated sexual assault, first-degree armed robbery and second-degree burglary, for his alleged Aug. 3 attack on an elderly woman at her Somers Point home, had his initial court appearance this afternoon via video, where he was formally advised of the charges against him, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel stated.

Marvin Sherwood, 27, of Finimore Street in Vineland, was also charged with possession of a weapon, a knife, possession of a weapon with an unlawful purpose, third-degree aggravated assault and third-degree tampering with physical evidence. In addition, he was charged with third-degree terroristic threats for allegedly threatening to kill the victim if she went to police or to the hospital, according to Chief Assistant Prosecutor Ellen Loughney, who represented the state at today's hearing.

Superior Court Judge Michael A. Donio presided over today's proceeding. He read the charges against Sherwood and advised the man of his rights.

"Do you have a copy of the charges against you?" Superior Court Judge Donio asked.

"Yes."

"You are charged with eight separate offenses, all alleged to have occurred on August 3," Judge Donio told Sherwood.

Superior Court Judge Donio also advised Sherwood that he is alleged to have attempted to destroy physical evidence, Loughney stated.

Somers Point Police responded to a Cedar Avenue residence for a 911 call that came in at 5:30 a.m. on Aug. 3. The caller, who routinely checks on the 89-year-old woman, told police that the victim had been attacked. The victim, whose name is not being released due to the nature of the crime, was taken by ambulance to Shore Memorial Hospital where she was treated and released later that day. It is alleged that Sherwood also took money and other items from the victim's residence, Loughney said.

Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office Detectives and Somers Point Detectives served Sherwood with arrest warrants at the Cumberland County Jail where he remains on unrelated charges.

Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office Forensics Unit Detective Ian Finnimore, along with the Somers Point Police Department Lt. Michael Sweeney and Detectives Roy Gandy, Robert Somers, and Jack Sementa, should be credited for the work that resulted in Sherwood's arrest.

A blanket bail on the Somers Point charges was set by another Superior Court Judge in the amount of \$750,000 full cash.

Aggravated sexual assault, a crime of the first-degree, carries a maximum prison sentence upon conviction of 20 years and \$200,000 in fines.

*****These charges are merely an accusation and not proof of guilt. In all criminal cases, a charged defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.**

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.