

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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Theodore F. L. Housel

Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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MAYS LANDING— A Hamilton Township man entered a guilty plea today to weapons offenses including possession of a firearm for an unlawful purpose and he faces up to 10 years in prison when sentenced in January, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel said.

On Jan. 29, 2010, hotel guests at Trump Marina Hotel Casino alerted security officers that a man entered the hotel elevator on the 10th floor with a handgun. Security personnel tracked the man to the 17th floor and as the elevator doors opened, the man later identified as Mario Diaz, 26, of Fulton Avenue, pointed the handgun at a security officer. Diaz remained on the elevator and rode it to the hotel floor where Atlantic City police took him into custody. The weapon, a loaded 9 mm handgun, was found on Diaz when he was arrested, according to Assistant Prosecutor Mario Formica.

Diaz entered his plea before Superior Court Judge Charles Middlesworth. The defendant must serve eight years in prison before parole eligibility when he is sentenced on Jan. 14, 2011.

*****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.