

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

4997 Unami Boulevard, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

Theodore F. L. Housel

Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

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2 Page (s)

For further information contact:
Madelaine Vitale 609-909-7855
609-457-7359

MAYS LANDING— An Atlantic County jury convicted an Atlantic City man today of possession of heroin, possession with intent to distribute heroin and obstructing the administration of law. He faces up to 11 ½ years in prison when he is sentenced in December, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced.

On April 30, 2009 at 5 p.m. Atlantic City police responded to the Rite Aid located at 1723 Pacific Avenue for a report of a male possibly in possession of a handgun. Upon arrival, Officers Innocenzo Visceglia and Brian Hambrecht confronted the male who matched the description provided by store personnel. That man was later identified as 27-year-old Michael Wimbish. During the course of the officers' interaction with Wimbish, the defendant ran a short distance and was quickly apprehended after a brief struggle. No weapon was recovered; however, police seized 40 bags of heroin from the defendant, according to Assistant Prosecutor John Flammer, who tried the case.

The trial opened on Tuesday and jurors began deliberations yesterday afternoon and returned the guilty verdict this morning.

Prior to this arrest, Wimbish had previous convictions for distributing cocaine in a public housing zone and another third-degree conviction for distribution of cocaine. Assistant Prosecutor John Flammer said the State would move for a mandatory extended term and the maximum of the statutorily-mandated period of parole ineligibility due to the defendant's prior distribution convictions.

After the jury delivered the guilty verdict this morning, the State successfully moved to revoke Wimbish's bail.

Superior Court Judge Max Baker will sentence the defendant on Dec. 23. Wimbish faces a 5-year period of parole ineligibility when he is sentenced.

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.