

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

4997 Unami Boulevard, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

Theodore F. L. Housel

Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
Oct. 25, 2010
2 Page (s)

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

MAYS LANDING— An Egg Harbor Township man entered a guilty plea on Friday to first-degree attempted murder and fourth-degree criminal sexual contact for attempting to kill a 17-year-old female during an early morning incident in the Venice Park section of Atlantic City in 2009, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel stated today.

Robert Washington, 29, faces 16 years in prison when he is sentenced for the Aug. 8, 2009 crimes. He must serve 85 percent of the prison term which is 13 years, seven months and six days, before parole eligibility followed by five years of mandatory parole supervision. In addition, upon release he will be subject to Megan's Law restrictions and a Nicole's Law restraining order which prohibits contact with the victim for life, according to Chief Assistant Prosecutor Ellen Loughney, who represented the State.

The defendant admitted during his plea hearing that he stabbed the victim in the neck, forehead and face and attempted to kill her. He said that the victim needed a ride and he gave her one. He further told the court that he "slobbered" on the victim's bra, Loughney said.

On the date of the crime, the female victim was walking from her friend's house in Atlantic City to Ventnor near 6 a.m., when Washington drove up to her in the area of Kentucky Avenue and asked if she needed a ride. They spoke for a few minutes and then the girl got into Washington's vehicle. The defendant drove to Venice Park instead of Ventnor and committed the crimes against the Atlantic City teen. The victim managed to jump out of Washington's vehicle while it was moving on N. Ohio Avenue in Atlantic City. Police responded to a report from a resident of a female knocking on doors and screaming for help in the 1800 block of N. Ohio Avenue. The victim was transported to the AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center, City Campus, where she received sutures and staples for her wounds. Atlantic City police located Washington in the city the following morning at 5:30 a.m. and arrested him. He was indicted in December of 2009. The defendant remains in the Atlantic County Justice Facility pending sentencing in lieu of bail, Loughney said.

Superior Court Judge Bernard E. DeLury presided over the plea hearing. Superior Court Judge Michael A. Donio will sentence Washington on Jan. 7, 2011.

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.