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Prosecutors: Chicago man used Taser on elderly woman in attempted Glencoe robbery



James M. Ray (Cook County Sheriff's Office)

By **Brian Cox**
Pioneer Press

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A Chicago man who allegedly Tasered a 79-year-old woman in Glencoe during a robbery attempt on Aug. 15 was ordered held in jail on \$250,000 bond at the Skokie courthouse on Tuesday.

James M. Ray, 53, is charged with aggravated battery and attempted robbery in what prosecutors at the Skokie courthouse last week said was a "brazen midday robbery."

They said Ray approached the woman in her vehicle in the 300 block of Park Avenue in Glencoe around noon on Aug. 15, knocked on her window and asked for a quarter. When the woman asked what he wanted the money for, he pulled out a Taser and grazed her arm with it, prosecutors said. They said the woman leaned back in her seat and kicked at Ray through the window as he continued to struggle with her.

Ray then ran from the area and jumped into a white sedan, prosecutors said. They said the woman called police and Ray was arrested in the vehicle a short distance from where the attempted robbery took place. Ray made a written admission to the crime, and prosecutors said they believe he planned the crime and carefully selected his victim. They said the woman was not seriously injured.

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They also said Ray was recently employed at Foodstuffs Gourmet and Catering in Glencoe, which is in the same block where he allegedly attacked the elderly woman. Ray was living with his mother at the time of the crime and was in the process of moving from Chicago to Wisconsin, prosecutors said.

His public defender last week said Ray has a child and does not have any money to post for bond. Ray is scheduled for a Sept. 8 preliminary hearing at the Skokie courthouse.

Brian Cox is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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