



SALEM POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – February 19, 2010

SALEM POLICE MAKE ARREST IN 2009 ASSAULT

On August 24, 2009 at approximately 11:30pm, the Salem Police Department responded to the Econo Lodge located in the 300 block of Wildwood Rd. in reference to an injured male subject who was outside of a motel room. Upon arrival, the victim was found to be unconscious and suffering from facial trauma. The victim was subsequently identified as Robert Jackson Atkins, age 59, of Roanoke County.

Atkins was transported to Roanoke Memorial Hospital and was admitted. Eleven days later on September 4, 2009, Atkins died at the hospital and his body was sent to the Medical Examiner's Office in Roanoke for an autopsy. The Salem Police Department continued its investigation into the assault on Atkins.

On January 16, 2010, the Salem Police Department received the results of the Medical Examiner's report, which ruled Atkins' cause of death to be from complications of blunt injuries to the head with chronic underlying medical conditions contributing.

The Salem Police Department conferred with the Salem Commonwealth Attorney's Office regarding charges in this case, and as a result, 2 indictments were presented to the Salem Grand Jury today, February 19, 2010, for the following felony charges:

- **Aggravated Malicious Wounding**
- **Robbery**

The charges are against the following individual:

James Anthony Spencer, age 22, of Roanoke. Spencer has been in custody at the Roanoke County/Salem Jail since mid-January on other, unrelated matters.

Spencer was arrested on the two indictments today and he remains in custody. He is being held without bond in relation to these charges. Trial is pending in this matter.

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