partner, Jerry Cottone, knocked down the apartment door to confront the man.

Prather shot Blazek with a "Taser," a type of stun gun which shot charged pins connected to thin wires into Blazek's lower back and left thigh. Cottone followed with a shock from a "Nova," a stun instrument on a pole similar to a cattle prod, and another officer shot a fire extinguisher at the man.

"The guy was swinging the bat like he meant business," Cottone said. "But we had to use the stun guns. The apartment was pitch-dark, and this was the best way to avoid seriously hurting anyone, both him and us."

When we stunned him, we had him dancing around for a moment," Prather added. "It hurts for a little while, but it's a safe and humane way of subduing people. We didn't want to kill the guy — just get him out safe."

The shots from the dual stun instruments and a fire extinguisher knocked the baseball bat from Blazek's hands, and he collapsed onto the floor, where he was handcuffed. No other weapons were found in the sparse apartment.

As he was led to an ambulance, the bare-chested Blazek screamed at the police and his neighbors waiting outside the building. "You all better redeem yourself," he shouted. "You better tell God you want to be saved before it's too late."

Police said Blazek was a former resident of Staten Island Developmental Center. It could not be determined yesterday when he was released from the institution.

Blazek's rent was paid by the city Department of Social Services.

"I was scared of the guy," said one resident after the ambulance sped away. "He was like an explosion waiting to happen, always yelling at people in the street and making everybody nervous. It's just too bad that it had to come to this."

Other neighborhood residents were also pleased with the peaceful methods police used to subdue Blazek.

"The negotiating was necessary, but it was also pretty important to end this problem quickly," Sgt. Diaz said. "These officers did a professional job, and no one was hurt. You can't do it much better than that."