

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

4997 Unami Boulevard, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

Theodore F. L. Housel
Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
Oct. 28, 2008
2 Page(s)

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

MAYS LANDING – A Hamilton Township man was arraigned Tuesday and entered a not guilty plea in connection with the May homicide of his neighbor, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel said.

It is alleged that Leonard Ford killed 33 year old Troy Cottman at 4:30 p.m. on May 13 in the den of Cottman's Anglesey Court residence. Hamilton Township Police received a 911 call of shots fired and responded to the complex located off of Cologne Avenue. The Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit also responded.

Cottman, who lived in the defendant's Oakcrest Estates development, was pronounced dead at the scene from a single gunshot wound to the head, which entered behind the left ear. Atlantic County Medical Examiner Dr. Hydow Park performed the autopsy

On Oct. 7 an Atlantic County Grand Jury indicted Ford, 30, on charges of murder, unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose and two counts of aggravated assault for pointing a gun at Harold Miller, who is 27 years old and 33 year old Eugene B. Robinson, both of whom were at Cottman's home at the time of the killing.

On Tuesday Ford waived the reading of the Indictment and entered his not guilty plea before Superior Court Judge Michael Connor. Assistant Prosecutor Seth Levy represented the State at the proceeding. The matter is scheduled to be back in court on Dec. 2.

Also indicted in connection with the crime was Kevin Boyle, 22, of Cardiff Court in Mays Landing. Ford allegedly contacted Boyle shortly after the homicide and asked him to dispose of the murder weapon, which was a .38 caliber handgun. Hamilton Township police located Boyle on May 15 in the area of Oakcrest Estates and arrested him. He was indicted for possession of the murder weapon, hindering apprehension and tampering with physical evidence, Prosecutor Housel stated.

Ford remains in the Atlantic County Justice Facility on \$750,000 full cash bail.

*****These charges are merely an accusation and not proof of guilt. In all criminal cases, a charged defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.**

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). Crime Stoppers offers cash rewards for information leading to the arrest and indictment of those who commit crimes in Atlantic County.