

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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NEWS RELEASE

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MAYS LANDING – An Atlantic County Grand Jury indicted an Atlantic City teen Thursday afternoon for killing an Egg Harbor Township man, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced.

Nahtavian Johnson, 17, was taken into custody Jan. 10, 2008 and charged with the Dec. 15, 2007 shooting death of Harold Ellis, 20, of Egg Harbor Township. Johnson is indicted for murder, possession of a handgun without a permit to carry and possession of a handgun for an unlawful purpose.

Johnson was initially being held in the Atlantic County Juvenile Detention Center (Harborfields) pending juvenile court proceedings. Prosecutor Housel sought to have Johnson tried as an adult. The Juvenile Court waived jurisdiction in March 2008. The matter will proceed in Superior Court following this indictment, Chief Assistant Prosecutor Ellen Loughney, who presented the case to the Grand Jury, stated.

It is alleged that Johnson killed Ellis on the night of Dec. 15, 2007. Pleasantville Police received a 911 call reporting a man down. The officers responded to 111 E. Washington Ave. and found Ellis dead on the sidewalk. An autopsy performed by Dr. Hydow Park confirmed the cause of death as a single gunshot wound to the head, entering behind the right ear.

*****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.**