

# ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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**Theodore F. L. Housel**  
Prosecutor

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## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release  
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2 Page(s)

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MAYS LANDING – Superior Court Judge Michael A. Donio sentenced three men to State Prison in connection with the March 22, 2007 stabbing death of a 26-year-old Buena Borough man, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced Thursday.

Elvin Torres, 25, of Ventnor, was sentenced to 15 years in prison for aggravated manslaughter of Raymond Campos. Torres must serve 85 percent of the prison term before parole eligibility, Assistant Prosecutor Daniel Murray stated. Daniel Esquilin, 23, of Newtonville, was sentenced to two eight-year sentences to run concurrent for manslaughter and aggravated assault on Larry Spellman. Spellman, who was the victim's friend, was also injured during the fight. Nick Esquilin, 26, of Philadelphia, was sentenced to six years in prison of which he must serve 85 percent of the term for aggravated assault in connection with punching Campos. In addition to the prison terms, the defendants were each ordered to pay \$5,000 in restitution to the victim's family for funeral expenses.

Prior to sentencing, several of Campos' family members addressed the court. The victim's sister, Shemika Benjamin, said that her brother's murder was "a senseless and brutal act." Torres and Daniel Esquilin apologized to the Campos' family.

On March 22, 2007, at approximately 6:40 p.m., a 911 call was placed to the New Jersey State Police reporting a motor vehicle collision at 9<sup>th</sup> Street and Jackson Avenue in Newtonville.

When State Police arrived they found Campos and Spellman bleeding on the street. They called rescue personnel and alerted the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit.

It is alleged that Campos was driving with Spellman as a passenger. Following a verbal confrontation between the victims and the defendants, Thomas Esquilin, the uncle of the defendants, chased Campos and Spellman in his vehicle. At one point Campos and Spellman got out of their vehicle. Thomas Esquilin got out of his car and Campos and Spellman proceeded to beat Thomas Esquilin with sticks.

Nick and Daniel Esquilin and Torres arrived in their vehicle. The three got out of the car and began to assault Spellman and Campos. During the altercation Torres inflicted the fatal stab wound to Campos' heart.

Spellman attempted to assist his friend and was also attacked prior to the arrival of the State Police.

The three defendants left the scene and were arrested several days later at a bar in South Philadelphia by members of the State Police Fugitive Squad.

**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.**