

# ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

4997 Unami Boulevard, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

**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** – Atlantic County law enforcement is getting even tougher when it comes to intoxicated drivers, conducting more DWI checkpoints this year than in the previous three years, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced.

On Friday the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office received an Enforcement Award presented by the South Jersey Traffic Safety Alliance during an award ceremony held at the Atlantic Cape Community College for creating, sponsoring and organizing DWI checkpoints throughout the County in the past year. The Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office received this prestigious award as a result of the work of the Fatal Collision Investigations Unit members Sgt. Keith Fane and Investigator Kevin Hincks and others. The Prosecutor commended all of the Atlantic County police departments who have contributed toward making this program a success.

"I would like to thank and recognize all of those agencies that assisted in the past year in organizing and working these DWI checkpoints which are always done in the evening hours when officers could be spending time with family and friends," Prosecutor Housel stated.

The Prosecutor also mentioned the Joint Legislative Commendation Award by Senator Jeffrey Van Drew, Senator James Whelan and Assemblymen Nelson Albano and Matt Milam, of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Districts respectively.

The County has seen a significant decrease in driving fatalities for 2008. For this year to date there were 23 fatalities. For the full year of 2007 there were 44. In 2006 there were 63 traffic-related deaths and in 2005 there were 64 fatalities, Prosecutor Housel stated.

Sgt. Fane said enforcement efforts by the police departments as well as the year-round checkpoints may have helped decrease the number of traffic-related fatalities in the County. In 2008 44 people were arrested for Driving While Intoxicated during 18 checkpoints that were operated by numerous Atlantic County police departments.

On Tuesday the Prosecutor's Office received a grant award letter from the New Jersey State Division of Highway Traffic Safety. State officials said they would continue to

provide additional monies for the Prosecutor's Office to conduct year-round Driving While Intoxicated checkpoints.

The checkpoints are coordinated by the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office with the assistance of several agencies. Departments who have assisted this year with the DWI Task Force included Ventnor, Margate, Longport, Somers Point, Linwood, Northfield, Pleasantville, Galloway Township, Egg Harbor Township, Egg Harbor City, Mullica Township, Hammonton and the Atlantic County Sheriff's Department.

**\*\*\*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.**