

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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NEWS RELEASE

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2 Page(s)

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MAYS LANDING – A Ventnor man was charged Thursday with the June 3, 2008, homicide of a man found dead in his Egg Harbor Township condominium two weeks later, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced.

The complaint charges Mark Little, 43, of 800 Burk Court in Ventnor, with the murder of 63-year-old Howard Lawson. The second count charges Little with possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose.

It is alleged that Little and Lawson were acquaintances. On June 20 Little was originally arrested and charged with theft by receiving stolen property – specifically the victim's car. He also was charged with credit card theft involving a Chase Visa card issued to Lawson. A further investigation resulted in Little being charged with homicide, according to First Assistant Prosecutor Murray Talasnik.

At 5:52 p.m. on June 17 Egg Harbor Township police responded to Lawson's 82 Catherine Court home to do a wellness check. There they found Lawson's decomposing body. The Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit responded as well as the County Medical Examiner.

An autopsy performed by Atlantic County Medical Examiner Dr. Hydow Park revealed that Lawson died from blunt force trauma to the head.

Superior Court Judge Michael Donio set Little's bail Thursday at \$500,000 full cash. Little's initial appearance on the murder and weapons charges is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Friday.

Little remains in the Atlantic County Justice Facility unable to make the \$35,000 bail from his June arrest.

Major Crimes Unit Sgt. Michael Quigley and Investigator William Anton along with Egg Harbor Township Police Detective Sidney Terrell conducted the investigation.

*****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.