

# ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

4997 Unami Boulevard, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

**1. 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 – Prosecutor Ted Housel called off the search for a toddler who has been missing since Sept. 14, 1986, during a press conference Friday in which he also asked that the child’s mother, who has yet to be located, come forward.

The Prosecutor told a barrage of media near a wooded area off of Route 9 on Brighton Avenue in Pleasantville across from the Recreation Center that a “credible tip” led to the search, which began late last week. Throughout the week the area was scene-taped and manned twenty-four hours a day to protect the integrity of the scene after news of the search had been given to the media from unknown persons.

Prosecutor Housel called the case a tragedy. “We have interviewed a number of persons and based on that we have undertaken excavations,” he stated, adding that this is a very important case.

The case is not being ruled a homicide. The little girl who was just three days shy of her second birthday remains listed as a missing person. The Prosecutor told the media that the remains may have been at the site and later removed. He also stated that there is also a possibility that the remains were never at that location.

Prosecutor Housel asked that Bonita Sanders, 42, the child’s mother, speak with Detectives from the Prosecutor’s Office Major Crimes Unit.

The Prosecutor stated members of the Prosecutor's Office worked tirelessly along with members of the New Jersey State Police, cadaver dogs, Pleasantville Police, the F.B.I. and other organizations, in hopes of finding Bonita Sanders' remains.

The site is closed to the public and on Monday the area will be returned to its proper state.

**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.**