

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

4997 Unami Boulevard, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

Theodore F. L. Housel
Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

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For further information contact:
Madelaine Vitale 609-909 -7855
or 609-457-7359

MAYS LANDING – An Atlantic County attorney was arrested on Tuesday in connection with three drug-related offenses, First Assistant Prosecutor Murray Talasnik announced.

Avis Cole, 50, of Hamilton Township, was charged with conspiracy to distribute controlled dangerous substances, distribution of controlled dangerous substances in an amount of over ½ an ounce and attempted distribution of controlled dangerous substances over ½ an ounce. Each second-degree count carries a prison term of five to 10 years in prison.

It is alleged that from December 2008 through February 2009, Cole conspired with a former client, to distribute prescription pills. She allegedly had her former client sell hundreds of Roxicodone pills, which are a form of Oxycontin. It is further alleged that Cole would obtain prescriptions from area doctors and have them filled at various pharmacies. During the course of the investigation Cole received approximately \$3,000 as proceeds from her former client selling the pills in Galloway Township, Pleasantville and Atlantic City.

Members of the Gangs Guns and Narcotics Unit arrested Cole without incident at her home Tuesday afternoon. She was transported to the Atlantic County Justice Facility in lieu of \$20,000 cash or bond bail.

*****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.