

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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NEWS RELEASE

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MAYS LANDING – A 16-year-old male pleaded guilty to three counts of aggravated assault for attempting to fire a gun at two Atlantic City police officers in April 26, 2008, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced Thursday.

The teen was previously waived to Adult Court and in September 2008 he was indicted by an Atlantic County Grand Jury on numerous counts in connection with the crime.

In exchange for the plea, Jabril Mitchell, of Atlantic City, will be sentenced to 12 years in prison. He must serve 85 percent of the prison term before parole eligibility. He will be sentenced April 17 before Superior Court Judge Bernard E. DeLury.

Standing before Judge DeLury, Mitchell admitted that he tried to shoot at officers when they attempted to question him on an unrelated matter, Assistant Prosecutor Mario Formica stated. When Officer Eric Wessler and Officer Jose Gonzalez approached Mitchell in the area of North Indiana Avenue in Atlantic City, the juvenile pointed a .22 caliber handgun at Officer Wessler and pulled the trigger. The gun misfired. After the officers took cover, a third officer, Officer James Karins pursued Mitchell.

During the plea hearing Mitchell admitted that he also attempted to fire the weapon at Officer Karins, but the gun misfired again. Mitchell then discarded the weapon, which was recovered by Karins. Additional officers apprehended Mitchell moments later and charged him with multiple offenses.

A scientist at the New Jersey State Police Forensic Laboratory performed ballistic analysis indicating that the bullet was struck twice by the firing pin of the gun, Formica stated.

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.