

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

4997 Unami Boulevard, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

Theodore F. L. Housel
Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
March 12, 2009
2 Page(s)

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

MAYS LANDING – Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced at a press conference today that a man fatally shot his wife, a mother of four children, then turned the gun on himself at work at All Paws Veterinary Clinic in Hamilton Township Thursday morning.

“It is with some true sadness that I announce to you that we believe there was another domestic violence murder-suicide,” Prosecutor Housel stated.

Patrice Clemente, 50, was killed by her soon-to-be estranged husband Ron Clemente, 51, who arrived at the vet clinic, located at 3 Central Avenue on Route 40 in the Mays Landing in Hamilton Township. Ron Clemente was at his wife’s work for five minutes prior to the shooting. Employees and customers heard two shots and exited out the rear of the building and called 911. Hamilton Township police and the Prosecutor’s Office Major Crimes Unit responded. Patrice Clemente and Ron Clemente were dead on arrival, Prosecutor Housel said. Notification of next of kin was made.

According to Patrice Clemente’s co-workers, the victim told them her estranged husband threatened to kill her. The employees urged her to contact police but she did not. The couple had no prior reported domestic violence incidents. At the time of the shooting, Ron Clemente had a communication in his possession with the intent to commit suicide, Prosecutor Housel said.

The couple lived in Egg Harbor Township with an adult and Patrice Clemente’s four children. Prosecutor Housel declined to give the address or the ages of the children with respect to the family. “They are obviously grieving,” Prosecutor Housel said. The children are all under the age of 25. The Prosecutor said it is the hope that the four children could remain with the adult who lives in the residence.

The Division of Youth and Family Services and the Prosecutor’s Office of Victim/Witness Advocacy are working together to ensure the welfare of the children. Prosecutor Housel said that there were no prior domestic violence incidents between the Clementes. The investigation into the shooting is continuing. He added that there were no accomplices involved.

This is the second domestic-related murder suicide. The first occurred on March 4 in Hamilton Township at the Oakcrest Estates Township complex in which Mario Justo-Perez stabbed to death Saily Abreu, a mother of five young girls.

Members of the Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit and the Hamilton Township Detective Bureau responded and are conducting the investigation.

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.