

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

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2 Page(s)

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MAYS LANDING – Three alleged members of the Piru West Side Bloods Street Gang were arrested and charged with drug and weapons offenses in Egg Harbor City, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced Friday.

Members of the Prosecutor's Office Shooting Response Team and Intelligence Unit assisted Egg Harbor City police Thursday with the investigation and arrests. At 10 a.m. an Egg Harbor City patrolman arrested Paul DeForge, 19, of Summerville South Carolina, in the area of the Harbor City Apartments. DeForge was charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance and unlawful possession of a semi-automatic handgun.

The subsequent joint investigation led officers to a residence at 715 White Horse Pike in Egg Harbor City where the three alleged gang members were staying. At 5:45 p.m. Thursday the Atlantic County Emergency Response Team executed a search warrant at the residence. Detectives recovered a stolen and defaced semi-automatic handgun from the home, Prosecutor's Office Sgt. Matthew Paley said.

Nino Fields, 18, and Joseph Herrera, 20, both of Summerville, South Carolina, were arrested at the White Horse Pike residence and charged with unlawful possession of a handgun and possession of a defaced firearm.

All three men were processed at the Egg Harbor City Police Department Thursday night. They were transported to the Atlantic County Justice Facility. DeForge's bail was set at \$250,000 full cash. Bail for Fields and Herrera were set at \$100,000 full cash, Paley said.

Egg Harbor City Police Officer Dave Aldridge and Prosecutor's Office Detective James N. Scoppa Jr. conducted the investigation. The FBI Safe Streets Task Force and the Galloway Township Police Department assisted.

*****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.