

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
March 23, 2009
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MAYS LANDING – A Newark man charged in connection with the Saturday morning stabbing death of a bartender at the Irish Pub in Atlantic City and injuries to another employee, appeared in court today for his initial hearing on murder and aggravated assault charges, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced.

Luis Martinez, 25, is charged with killing Richard Rivera, 27, of Atlantic City. Rivera died of a stab wound to the heart when he and Richard Kutch, 27, of Atlantic City, attempted to break up a fight inside the bar. Kutch suffered stab wounds to the left side of his body and remains hospitalized. Members of the Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit were called to the pub located on St. James Place at 5:10 a.m. for a report of a disturbance. Martinez was arrested a few hours later and charged with the crimes.

Prosecutor Housel handled the State' case at Monday's hearing. The Prosecutor handed the defendant through a sheriff's officer, a copy of the complaint against Martinez with the upgraded charge of murder against him for causing Rivera's death.

Rivera's mother sobbed loudly as she sat in the front row of the Courtroom gallery. Two of her sons tried to console her. Other loved ones also reacted emotionally at the sight of the victim's alleged killer. Sheriff's officers calmed the family down.

Superior Court Judge Albert Garofolo, who presided over the hearing read a copy of the aggravated assault and murder complaints aloud at Martinez' request.

Prosecutor Housel told the Judge that the bail was \$750,000 full cash, up \$500,000 from the previous bail set Saturday for two counts of aggravated assault and possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose.

*****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.