

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

4997 Unami Boulevard, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

Theodore F. L. Housel
Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
April 30, 2009
2 Page(s)

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

MAYS LANDING – An Atlantic County Grand Jury indicted a Cumberland County woman on counts of aggravated manslaughter and vehicular homicide in connection with a one-car crash in Buena Borough on May 14, 2008 that her passenger, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel stated Thursday.

Aimee Jost, 32, of the 1200 Block of Forest Grove Road in Vineland, was heading north on Brewster Road in Buena Borough at 2:10 a.m. on May 14, 2008, when her vehicle left the roadway and struck several road signs and crossed back over Brewster Road, struck a fence post, rolled over and eventually came to a final rest on its roof. Jost's passenger Nicholas Smith, 29, of the 1300 Block of West Oak Road in Vineland, was ejected from the car. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Jost was charged the day of the crash with traffic tickets including careless driving, failure to maintain a lane, reckless driving and drunk driving. The Prosecutor's Office charged her on July 10 with aggravated manslaughter. The bail was set at \$100,000 cash or bond.

Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office Fatal Collisions Unit Sgt. Keith Fane and Investigator Kevin Hincks conducted the investigation along with Lt. David Sherma, Corporal John Kline and Patrol Officer Stacy Steudle of the Buena Borough Police Department. Sgt. Robert Clarke of the Atlantic City Police Department also assisted in the investigation.

Aggravated manslaughter is a first-degree crime that carries a prison term of 10 to 30 years in prison. Vehicular homicide carries a prison term of 5 to 10 years.

Assistant Prosecutor Curt Baker presented the case to the Grand Jury Thursday afternoon.

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 anonymously provide information by filling out the form. 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 conviction of those who commit crimes in Atlantic County.

*****These charges are merely an accusation and not proof of guilt. In all criminal cases, a charged defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.**