

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

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MAYS LANDING – Three people were charged with second-degree witness tampering for allegedly making threats of violence against two witnesses who were scheduled to testify last week in a trial involving multiple armed robberies, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced Tuesday.

The trial against Aaron Orr, 25, of Waldorf Maryland, was set to begin May 6 before Superior Court Judge Bernard E. DeLury. Assistant Prosecutor Mario Formica received information of possible witness tampering. He informed the Judge, who dismissed the jury pool on May 5 and granted Formica's application for a postponement.

According to Formica, he received information from Egg Harbor Township Detective Heather Stumpf on May 3 indicating that one of the victims received a death threat and the other received a threat that he would be hurt should they testify at Orr's trial. The victims retained the caller's phone number and passed it on to police. Prosecutor Housel sought a search warrant that allows law enforcement officers to receive telephone records. A Superior Court Judge signed off on a search warrant that same day. Telephone records received indicated the only calls made from the phone were to civilian witnesses set to appear at trial and a telephone number that was traced back to a Waldorf, Maryland address, just three miles from the defendant's home.

On May 5, Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office Detectives William Carew and C.J. Durham traveled to Waldorf and with the assistance of the Charles County Sheriff's Department, located Paul Prevost, 19, of Waldorf. Prevost was charged with two counts of witness tampering. He was transported to a New Jersey justice facility where bail was set at \$150,000 cash or bond bail. Detectives also located the phone used to make the threats as well as letters sent by Aaron Orr to his sister Kendahl Orr, also of Waldorf, directing Prevost to make the threatening phone calls, Formica stated.

The following day Detectives Carew and Durham executed a search warrant in Orr's jail cell and obtained additional correspondence linking the defendant to the crimes. Orr, 25, was charged with witness tampering and bail was set at \$200,000 cash or bond bail in addition to \$350,000 bail on the robbery charges. Some of the letters were from Orr's sister Kendahl Orr, also of Waldorf. She was charged yesterday on the witness

tampering charge before Judge DeLury and released on her own recognizance pending a May 20 bail review, Formica stated.

If convicted, second-degree witness tampering carries a term of up to 10 years in prison.

*****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.