

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

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MAYS LANDING – An Atlantic City teen entered a guilty plea today to one count of aggravated manslaughter in connection with the 2007 death of an Egg Harbor Township man and he will be sentenced to 18 years in prison, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel stated Wednesday.

Nahtavian Johnson, 17, must serve 85 percent of the prison term before parole eligibility, Chief Assistant Prosecutor Ellen Loughney who represents the State, said. The teen was charged in January 2008 with the Dec. 15, 2007 shooting death of 20-year-old Harold Ellis. He was indicted for the crime in December 2008.

The day of the killing Pleasantville Police received a 911 call for a report of a man down and responded to 111 E. Washington Avenue where they found Ellis dead on the sidewalk. An autopsy performed by Dr. Hydow Park determined the victim died of a single gunshot wound to the head.

Johnson was initially charged as a juvenile and was held in the Atlantic County Juvenile Detention Center (Harborfields) pending juvenile court proceedings. Prosecutor Housel sought to have Johnson tried as an adult. The Juvenile Court waived jurisdiction in March 2008.

Superior Court Judge Bernard E. DeLury presided over the plea hearing. Superior Court Judge James Isman will sentence Johnson on June 26.

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.