

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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NEWS RELEASE

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MAYS LANDING – An Egg Harbor City man entered a guilty plea today to manslaughter in connection with the beating death of his neighbor, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel stated.

In accordance with the plea agreement, 31-year-old Juan Carlos Flores-Morales will be sentenced to eight years in prison on July 31 before Superior Court Judge Bernard E. DeLury Jr. He must serve 85 percent of the prison term before parole eligibility. Upon release he will be subject to a mandatory three-year-term of parole supervision, said Assistant Prosecutor Lynn Heyer, who represents the State.

On April 23, 2007 between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m., the defendant beat 36-year-old Jose Antonio Figueroa outside the victim's nearby Cincinnati Avenue apartment. During the plea hearing Heyer told the Court that witness accounts of the altercation indicate that the defendant went to the victim's residence and beat him with his fists. While the victim was on the ground, Flores-Morales continued to kick him.

A few hours after the beating an individual called for an ambulance, which transported the victim to Kessler Memorial Hospital. He was later flown to Cooper Medical Center where he died of his injuries on April 27, 2007, Heyer stated.

An autopsy determined the victim died of blunt force trauma to the torso resulting in a ruptured spleen.

Egg Harbor City Police initially charged Flores-Morales with aggravated assault. Upon the victim's death, the Prosecutor's Office upgraded the charge. The defendant was a fugitive for approximately six months before being apprehended by Prosecutor's Office Detective Michael Alimenti with the assistance of other members of law enforcement.

Superior Court Judge Albert Garofolo presided over the plea hearing.

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.