

# ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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Prosecutor

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## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release  
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2 Page(s)

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MAYS LANDING – An Atlantic City man was sentenced to 75 years in prison today for gunning down a Camden County father of six, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced.

Superior Court Judge Michael A. Donio sentenced Louis Williams to 65 years in prison, of which the defendant must serve 85 percent before parole eligibility, for the June 13, 2006 death of Delrico Herring. Williams also was sentenced to 10 years in prison for possession of a weapon by a convicted felon, of which he must serve five years in prison before parole eligibility.

Williams, 35, fatally shot Herring, 34, in the driveway of resident Phillip Schwartzbeck, at 225 Zion Road in Egg Harbor Township. The State alleged it was because Williams thought Herring “shorted him” on drugs. Williams took off and was a fugitive until July 2007 when he was apprehended in Philadelphia. On May 4 an Atlantic County jury convicted Williams of the crimes. In addition to murder, Williams was convicted of unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, endangering an injured victim, theft of an automobile, hindering apprehension and desecrating human remains. The jury then deliberated and convicted Williams of possession of a weapon by a convicted person. A jury is not allowed to learn of the defendant’s prior criminal history, which is why deliberations on such counts must be done after the verdict.

Chief Assistant Prosecutor Chet Wiech, who represented the State, said, “This was a senseless killing involving drugs. Drugs and guns are probably the most volatile combination we see. There has been way too much senseless violence in this county.”

Superior Court Judge Donio heard from some of the victim’s loved ones, who packed the Courtroom.

Herring’s sister, Stacy Herring, spoke of how her brother “Rico” was the youngest of five siblings, yet he was the rock of the family. She described her brother as a loving father, who treated all of his children the same. She spoke of how he was a good son who would call his mother everyday to make sure she was O.K.

“Make sure this defendant pays for what he has done to this family,” Stacy Herring told the Court, asking that the defendant be imprisoned for the rest of his life.

Some of Herring’s family members wept during the hearing. One of his daughters sobbed aloud shortly after she told the Court how much she missed her father.

Williams also addressed the Court. He stood up, turned to look at Herring’s family members sitting across the Courtroom and said he was sorry for their loss but insisted that he did not kill the victim.

**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.**