

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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Theodore F. L. Housel
Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

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MAYS LANDING – A Vineland man was charged today with the attempted murder of a police officer in connection with a motor vehicle stop today, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced.

At 11:55 a.m. state Department of Human Services Police Officer Eric Hollinger who is assigned to the Vineland Residential Center, attempted to make a motor vehicle stop in Buena Borough when the driver, Daniel Szturma, 32, of Vineland, attempted to elude the officer and fled in his vehicle.

A short while later Szturma was located behind Ben's Foreign Car, located at 110 West Atlantic Avenue in Buena Borough. Officer Hollinger attempted to arrest him and a struggle ensued, during which time Szturma gained control of the officer's weapon.

It is alleged that the suspect fired four rounds from the Officer's 9 mm duty weapon. No one was injured during this incident. Szturma was taken into custody without further incident. He was subsequently charged with attempted murder, eluding, resisting arrest and disarming a police officer while in the performance of his duties. Superior Court Judge Albert Garofolo set bail at \$1 million full cash. Szturma is currently lodged in the Atlantic County Justice Facility pending further proceedings.

"Once again a law enforcement officer in Atlantic County is exposed to a high probability of death or serious bodily injury by enforcing the law and encountering a person with no regard for the value of human life. Unfortunately this is the reality with which police must live on a day-to-day basis," Prosecutor Housel stated.

The Buena Borough Police Department as well as the state Department of Human Services assisted the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit in this investigation.

*****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.**

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.