

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

4997 Unami Boulevard, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

Theodore F. L. Housel
Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
June 25, 2009
2 Page(s)

For further information contact:
Madelaine Vitale 609-909 -7855
or 609-457-7359

MAYS LANDING – An Atlantic County Grand Jury indicted a Pleasantville teen on charges of murder, felony murder and armed robbery in connection with fatally shooting an Egg Harbor Township man, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced today.

In addition, Tashan Gonzalez, 18, of Wellington Avenue, was indicted on charges of possession of a firearm for an unlawful purpose, unlawful possession of a weapon, hindering his own prosecution and tampering with physical evidence, according to First Assistant Prosecutor Murray Talasnik, who presented the case to the Grand Jury Thursday this morning.

It is alleged that Gonzalez shot Michael Maina Jr., 46, in the head on Feb. 9, while the victim was in his sport utility vehicle in Pleasantville. Gonzalez was 17-years-old at the time of the slaying. He was arrested shortly after the slaying and remained at the Youth Detention Center at Harborfields in Egg Harbor City until his matter was moved to Adult Court.

Pleasantville police received a 911 call at 5:30 p.m. on the night of the shooting indicating a man was shot in the 400 Block of Alder Avenue in Pleasantville. When police arrived, they discovered Maina in the driver's seat of his vehicle bleeding profusely from the head. Maina was rushed to AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center, City Campus where he died of his injuries.

Gonzalez is currently in the Atlantic County Justice Facility in lieu of \$500,000 cash or bond bail pending further proceedings.

*****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.