

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

4997 Unami Boulevard, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

Theodore F. L. Housel

Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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For further information contact:

Madelaine Vitale 609-909 -7855

or 609-457-7359

MAYS LANDING – An Atlantic County jury convicted a man of the June 18, 2006 killing of a man during an altercation at a Father's Day party in the Stanley Holmes Village housing complex in Atlantic City, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced today.

Aziz Gilliard, 26, also known as Aziz Newmones, of Atlantic City, was found guilty of aggravated manslaughter, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose and possession of a weapon by a convicted person, for fatally shooting Kawan Hill, 26, of Atlantic City.

During the two-week trial the jury heard testimony that two men started arguing at the party. Hill stepped in to calm the situation and the defendant, who was not one of the men in the altercation, shot Hill in the head. Gilliard was charged with the killing in September 2006. He remained a fugitive until 2007 when authorities located him in Maryland.

Three witnesses who had previously identified Gilliard as the person who shot Kawan Hill recanted while on the witness stand. Another witness testified that she had been threatened. In court the three recanting witnesses changed their accounts to say that they had not witnessed the shooting at all. It is suspected that all three recanting witnesses were victims of intimidation by supporters of Gilliard.

Assistant Prosecutor John Maher, who represented the State, said that he was pleased Hill's family was finally able to see justice done in this case.

"This office will continue to prosecute these serious crimes vigorously even though efforts are often made to intimidate witnesses. The public needs to know this," said Prosecutor Housel.

Superior Court Judge Michael A. Donio will sentence Gilliard on Oct. 29. The defendant could face up to 40 years in prison.

Prosecutor's Office Sgt. Janet LaRocca was the primary investigator in the case and Detective Caroline Burton assisted Maher in the trial presentation.

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.