

# ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

4997 Unami Boulevard, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

**Theodore F. L. Housel**

**Prosecutor**

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## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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**MAYS LANDING** – The preliminary autopsy findings determined that an 88-year-old Linwood woman suffered multiple stab wounds and other serious injuries during a vicious attack yesterday, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel stated Friday.

In addition to the sharp force injuries, Catherine McGowan suffered contusions, abrasions and a laceration to the back of her head. Atlantic County Medical Examiner Dr. Hydow Park conducted the autopsy this morning.

It is alleged that McGowan's neighbor Anthony Milano, 65, attacked her with a large folding knife outside of the woman's Jefferson Court home in the Village at Linwood complex, Prosecutor Housel stated. The alleged murder weapon was recovered at the scene, Prosecutor Housel stated. It is further alleged that when Good Samaritan Eugene Pepper, 84, attempted to come to the aid of McGowan, the victim's attacker stabbed Pepper. Milano also allegedly stabbed Diane Nehmad, 60. Both Pepper and Nehmad are listed in fair condition at the AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center, City Campus, in Atlantic City.

Linwood Police received a 911 call at 11:18 a.m. Thursday and responded to the Village at Linwood condominium complex located at 550 Central Avenue. When authorities arrived they discovered McGowan dead in front of her home and called for the Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit and the Medical Examiner's Office.

Pepper and Nehmad were transported to the hospital and Milano was taken into custody. Milano was charged with one count of murder, two counts of aggravated assault, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose and unlawful possession of a dangerous weapon. Bail was set at \$2 million and late this afternoon Superior Court Judge James E. Isman advised Milano of his rights during a brief initial appearance which was via audio feed. First Assistant Prosecutor Murray Talasnik represented the State.

While at the homicide scene yesterday, Prosecutor Housel told the media that there was a history of neighborhood differences and that Milano was scheduled to appear in

the Linwood Municipal Court Thursday night on harassment charges filed against him by McGowan.

**\*\*\*These charges are merely an accusation and not proof of guilt. In all criminal cases, a charged defendant is presumed innocent unless and until 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.**