

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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Theodore F. L. Housel

Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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2 Page(s)

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MAYS LANDING – Two women charged with the beating death of a Camden County man whose body was discovered on Oct. 14 in a wooded area off Route 50, appeared in court Monday to formally hear the charges against them, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel stated.

Ashley McLaughlin, 22, of Sicklerville in Camden County, and Cynthia Myers, 27, of Tulip Avenue in Camden, New Jersey, were arrested a day after the body of John Quann Jr., 23, of West Atco, was found. The women are charged with murder, felony murder and weapons offenses. In addition to the Atlantic County charges, McLaughlin and Myers are charged with aggravated assault and kidnapping out of Camden County.

During separate hearings today, Superior Court Judge Albert Garofolo asked McLaughlin and Myers if they understood the charges against them. They said that they did. Copies of the complaints stemming out of the crimes in Camden County were provided to the suspects and they had their initial appearance on those charges as well.

Some of the victim's family members attended the hearing.

It is alleged that on Oct. 9 Quann and his two attackers were in the victim's vehicle when he pulled to the side of Cross-Keys Road in Camden County. It is further alleged that McLaughlin and Myers struck Quann on the side of his head with a hammer and took possession of his car while he pleaded for medical help. The two women then drove Quann to Atlantic County where they allegedly beat him to death with the hammer and left his body in the woods off of Hickory Lane in Hamilton Township, according to First Assistant Prosecutor Murray Talasnik, who represented the State.

At 9:47 a.m. on Oct. 14 Hamilton Township police responded to the woods off of Hickory Lane as a result of a report from a hunter who discovered the body. Members of the Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit responded moments later. Dr. Hydow Park performed an autopsy later that day and determined Quann died of multiple blunt force trauma to the head.

Major Crimes Unit Detectives Michael Mattioli and James Kirschner conducted the investigation with the assistance of the Hamilton Township Police Department, including Detective Larry Fernan, the Camden County Prosecutor's Office and the Lindenwold Police Department.

McLaughlin and Myers remain in the Atlantic County Justice Facility on \$1 million full cash bail. An additional \$100,000 cash or bond bail was set out of Camden County.

*****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.