

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 – A teenager entered a guilty plea today to aggravated manslaughter for fatally shooting a Pleasantville man two years ago and could be sentenced to 20 years in prison, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel stated.

Otis Ross, 19, must serve 85 percent of the prison term imposed in connection with the death of Armando Mayo Martinez of North Main Street. During the court appearance today the defendant also entered a guilty plea to possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, according to Assistant Prosecutor Curt Baker.

On Nov. 18, 2007, at 6 a.m., Pleasantville police received a 911 call and responded to 211A West Ridgewood Avenue for a report that a passerby discovered a body on the lawn. Pleasantville police contacted the Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit and the Atlantic County Medical Examiner who arrived moments later.

Atlantic County Medical Examiner Dr. Hydow Park performed an autopsy on the victim later in the day of the killing and determined Martinez, 27, died of a single gunshot wound to the head, Baker said.

The defendant admitted in court today that he met Martinez at a restaurant in Pleasantville where the decedent asked about purchasing marijuana. The defendant had Martinez follow him to Ridgewood Avenue where Ross pulled out a handgun and pointed it at the decedent's head. Ross also acknowledged that he was going to rob the victim when the gun went off killing Martinez, Baker said.

Ross, who was 17 at the time of the crime, was arrested the next day at his Pleasantville residence on Ridgewood Avenue. He was transported to Harborfields Detention Center in Egg Harbor City where he remained until he voluntarily waived to Criminal Court during a Family Court hearing on Jan. 4, 2008. Two months later an Atlantic County Grand Jury indicted the defendant, Baker said.

Superior Court Judge Isman revoked Ross' bail and he will be sentenced on Jan. 7.

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.