

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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NEWS RELEASE

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MAYS LANDING – A Pleasantville woman was sentenced to seven years in prison today for the attempted murder of her husband, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced.

Michael Lowrie, 63, must serve 85 percent of the prison term before parole eligibility for the failed murder-for-hire scheme against 72-year-old Adrian Lowrie. During her September plea hearing the defendant stated that she and her husband had been married for 15 years and that the marriage had deteriorated. On May 29, 2009, she drove to the Egg Harbor City Lake Pavilion where she met with a person and gave him a \$2,000 down payment on a \$6,000 contract to have her spouse murdered. The “hit man” turned out to be an undercover operative from the FBI and Lowrie was arrested shortly thereafter.

In addition to the prison term, the defendant forfeited the money she gave to the “hit man” and the vehicle she drove to meet with him, according to First Assistant Prosecutor Murray Talasnik who represented the State.

The investigation into the defendant’s scheme showed that she actively pursued the hiring of a hit man and she did so through an intermediary, a friend of hers from a local civic group. The defendant supplied a photo of her husband to the “hit man” and a sum of cash as a partial payment. She was not concerned with how her husband was killed, but wanted to make sure that his body was never found, Talasnik told the court urging the Judge to impose the plea agreement.

“If there are people out there willing to hire others to kill, then there will be people out there willing to kill for money,” Talasnik said.

Adrian Lowrie was not present at sentencing but wrote a letter to the court that the Judge stated he took into account when fashioning the sentence.

Before the Judge imposed sentence the defendant addressed the court. Michael Lowrie said that she and her husband had a rocky relationship and that she wanted a divorce.

When she was unable to get him to move out of the house she decided to have someone kill him.

Superior Court Judge Bernard E. DeLury stated that the defendant made several inquiries into hiring a hit man and her only remorse appeared to be that of the failed result to have her husband killed.

Egg Harbor City Police Department, the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit and the FBI conducted the investigation that led to Lowrie's arrest. She was indicted in connection with the crime in June.

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) or visit the Crime Stoppers Website at <http://www.crimestoppersatlantic.com/>. Crime Stoppers offers cash rewards for information leading to the arrest and indictment of those who commit crimes in Atlantic County.