

# 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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1 Page (s)

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**MAYS LANDING** – A Pleasantville man entered a guilty plea yesterday to two separate charges of unlawful possession of a handgun and faces up to 10 years in prison with a mandatory six-year-period of parole ineligibility when sentenced in February, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel stated today.

Isaiah Cooper, 20, was arrested on an outstanding, unrelated warrant, on June 25, 2009 and transported to the Atlantic County Justice Facility. While being processed, Cooper was found to be in possession of a loaded .380 caliber-handgun and was charged with unlawful possession of a weapon. While out on bail on that possession charge, Cooper was the passenger in a vehicle that was pulled over in Pleasantville on Sept. 8, 2009. Officers told Cooper to keep his hands visible. He refused to do so. Officers then ordered him to exit the vehicle. At first he refused. He finally stepped out of the car, but right before exiting the vehicle, he reached down in the floor area of the car. When officers opened the car door all of the way, they observed a .45-caliber fully loaded handgun. Cooper was arrested and charged with unlawful possession of a handgun, according to Assistant Prosecutor Mario Formica, who is handling the State's case.

During the plea hearing on Thursday before Superior Court Judge Robert Neustadter, Cooper admitted that he was in possession of the firearms on both occasions, Formica stated.

Cooper remains in the Atlantic County Justice Facility in lieu of \$300,000 cash or bond bail pending sentence. He will be sentenced on Feb. 11.

**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.**