

# 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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2 Page (s)

For further information contact:

Madelaine Vitale 609-909-7855

609-457-7359

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**MAYS LANDING** – An Atlantic City man who entered a guilty plea to one count of aggravated manslaughter for fatally shooting his wife, was sentenced to 24 years in prison today, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced.

In accordance with the plea agreement, Louis Watson, 43, must serve 85 percent of the prison term before being eligible for parole for the June 29, 2008 killing of Norene Watson, 36, in the couple's McKinley Avenue home in Atlantic City. In addition, upon release the defendant will be subject to five years parole supervision, Assistant Prosecutor Donna Fetzer said.

"There is a great need to deter the behavior of domestic abusers," Fetzer stated. "A beautiful mother's life ended tragically leaving three young children behind."

Several of the victim's family and friends attended the proceeding.

Norene Watson's brother James Mosby told the court that he could forgive the defendant solely for the sake of the children, whom he worries about every day. He told the court that he misses his sister deeply, Fetzer stated.

The defendant addressed the court. He apologized to the family and said that he loved his wife.

During the defendant's Oct. 30 plea hearing, he stated that he pointed his loaded handgun at his wife and pulled the trigger believing his reckless acts would probably cause her death. The couple had a domestic violence history dating back to 2001. Police were called to their home on several occasions for reports that Watson assaulted his wife and her eldest son, Fetzer stated.

At 2:30 a.m. the morning of the homicide, Atlantic City police received a 911 call from the victim's home for a report of shots fired. When police responded they found the mother of three, dead. The Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit responded and conducted the investigation along with the Atlantic City Police Department. Atlantic County Medical Examiner Dr. Hydow Park performed an autopsy on the victim later that day and determined Norene Watson died of a single gunshot wound to the face.

The defendant was located shortly after the killing in the area of Georgia Avenue in Atlantic City. He had the weapon used to kill his wife still in his possession. He was charged with the homicide and transported to the Atlantic County Justice Facility where bail was set at \$500,000. The children are in the care of the victim's brother and paternal grandmother, Fetzer stated.

Prior to imposing sentence, Superior Court Judge Bernard E. DeLury stated that the defendant did not deserve anything less than 24 years in prison. He further stated that the plea agreement was in the interest of the victim's 13-year-old son, who was home at the time of the crime and called 911. The Judge also said that the defendant's domestic violence history illustrates that the defendant has a propensity for committing other crimes, Fetzer stated.

**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.**