

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 – Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel authorized charging two juveniles who were initially charged with armed robbery, with felony murder today as a result of the conclusion of the autopsy on an Absecon man found dead in tidal marshes along Leeds Avenue in Pleasantville on Christmas night.

Atlantic County Medical Examiner Dr. Hydow Park determined Kenneth Mack, 42, of 1 Oyster Bay, suffered sudden cardiac death associated with being assaulted and thrown in the frigid water 11 days prior to his body being discovered.

Earlier this month authorities arrested the two 16-year-old Pleasantville males and charged them with two firearms offenses, conspiracy and armed robbery. In addition to felony murder, one of the juveniles is charged with aggravated manslaughter because it is alleged that he acted alone in throwing the victim into the water as part of the assault.

The juveniles are lodged in Harborfields Juvenile Detention Center in Egg Harbor City pending further proceedings. Prosecutor Housel authorized filing a motion in Family Court to move the case to Adult Court.

Pleasantville police acting on information, responded to the 200 block of Leeds Avenue at 7:45 p.m. on Dec. 25, where they discovered a body of a man, later identified as the victim dead in the marsh. Mack, who was mentally challenged, was last seen in the area of Linden Avenue and Leeds Avenue on Dec. 14. A family member contacted police and reported him missing that same day.

*****These charges are merely an accusation and not proof of guilt. In all criminal cases, a charged defendant is presumed innocent unless and until 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) 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.