

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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MAYS LANDING – Two Camden County women entered guilty pleas today to charges of felony murder and conspiracy to commit robbery. They each face decades in prison for the October beating death of a Camden County man whose body was discovered in a wooded area off of Route 50, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced.

Ashley McLaughlin, 23, of Sicklerville in Camden County, and Cynthia Myers, 27, of Tulip Avenue in Camden, New Jersey, admitted during separate plea hearings today that their motive was to rob John Quann, 23, of West Atco. On Oct. 9 McLaughlin called Quann and told him to pick the two women up. He picked them up and at one point he pulled to the side of Cross-Keys Road in Camden County. That was when, pursuant to their plan, Myers left the vehicle at which point McLaughlin struck Quann in the back of the head with a hammer. Myers then returned to the car, wrapped her scarf around his neck and began to strangle him until he passed out. The women then drove Quann eastbound on the Atlantic City Expressway before exiting in Hamilton Township just passed the tollbooth. Driving to a wooded area, McLaughlin led Quann deeper in to the woods where she continued to assault him in an effort to complete the robbery. When Quann resisted, McLaughlin summoned Myers and the two of them forced Quann to the ground, tied his hands behind his back and hit him with a hammer until he was dead, according to First Assistant Prosecutor Murray Talasnik, who represented the State.

In accordance with the plea agreement, McLaughlin will be sentenced to 35 years in prison for the felony murder and seven years to run concurrent for conspiracy to commit robbery. She must serve 30 years in prison before parole eligibility. Myers will be sentenced to 38 years in prison for felony murder and seven years to run concurrent for the conspiracy. She must serve 32 years and three months in prison before parole eligibility.

Several of the family and friends of the victim were present for the proceeding.

During McLaughlin's court proceeding she told the court that she and Myers called Quann and asked that he drive them to Berlin, Camden County. The woman wanted to "get some money out of him" and thought that they could "scare him into giving it to us."

A hunter discovered Quann's body on Oct. 14 and called police. Hamilton Township Police and the Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit responded. McLaughlin and Myers were arrested the following day. Atlantic County Medical Examiner Dr. Hydow Park performed an autopsy and determined Quann died of multiple blunt force trauma to the head, Prosecutor Housel stated.

McLaughlin and Myers were indicted in December. They remain in the Atlantic County Justice Facility pending sentencing, which is scheduled for April 23 before Judge DeLury.

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.