

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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Theodore F. L. Housel

Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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MAYS LANDING – An Atlantic County Grand Jury indicted an Egg Harbor Township man on charges of aggravated manslaughter and other offenses, for allegedly killing his wife and dumping her body on the side of a creek, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced today.

John M. Hilyard, 48, of 136 Bridle Path Drive, allegedly strangled his wife, Chun Yan Hilyard, 45, of the same address, sometime in the early morning hours on Nov. 3 during an altercation in their home. It is further alleged that he removed his wife's body, drove to Fenton Mill's Creek in Egg Harbor Township and placed her body on the side of the creek. At 7:40 a.m. on Nov. 4 a jogger contacted police and reported the discovery. Later that same day, the suspect went to the police department to report his wife missing. An investigation of the discovery and the missing persons report led to Hilyard's arrest, Prosecutor Housel said.

In addition to aggravated manslaughter, the Grand Jury indicted Hilyard on charges of possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose; that being a ligature, hindering prosecution and tampering with physical evidence, according to First Assistant Prosecutor Murray Talasnik, who presented the case to the Grand Jury on Tuesday afternoon.

Hilyard is lodged in the Atlantic County Justice Facility in lieu of \$1 million bail. The couple's three children are currently staying with family.

If convicted of all charges, Hilyard faces up to 35 years in prison.

The Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit and the Egg Harbor Township Police Department conducted the investigation.

***The indictment is merely an accusation. The defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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.