

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

4997 Unami Boulevard, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

Theodore F. L. Housel

Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Feb. 3, 2010

2 Page (s)

For further information contact:

Madelaine Vitale 609-909-7855

609-457-7359

JOINT PRESS RELEASE FROM THE ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE AND THE ATLANTIC CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

MAYS LANDING – A nine-year veteran employee of Atlantic City was arrested and charged today with official misconduct, distribution of heroin, distribution within 500 feet of a public zone and distribution within 1000 feet of a school zone, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel and Atlantic City Police Chief John Mooney announced.

Akbar Malik Salaam, 57, the building manager for All Wars Memorial Building located on Adriatic Avenue in Atlantic City, was arrested leaving his Egg Harbor Township home this morning while on his way to work. In addition to the official misconduct and drug charges, Salaam also received a traffic summons for driving while his license was suspended, Prosecutor Housel stated.

It is alleged that Salaam sold in excess of ½ ounce of heroin with a street value of thousands of dollars to undercover operatives during work hours at the memorial building as well as in his official city vehicle. These sales occurred over a several-month period, Prosecutor Housel stated.

Atlantic City Detective Daryl Dabney and Atlantic City Detective Kevin Fair, along with the Prosecutor's Office Gangs, Guns and Narcotics Unit and the FBI conducted the investigation.

"I want to thank both the Atlantic City Police Department and the FBI for their participation in this case. Attorney General Guidelines dictate that only I can make the decision to charge the offense of official misconduct. The allegations of selling hundreds of bags of heroin while working in an official capacity at the building which the accused is responsible to maintain, mandates that decision. I ask for any individuals who are aware of additional wrongdoing occurring at the All Wars Memorial Building to step forward, anonymously if they wish, and meet with us," Prosecutor Housel stated.

The distribution of heroin over a ½ ounce is a crime of the second-degree with a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and \$150,000 in fines. Official misconduct as

charged, is also a crime of the second-degree but carries a mandatory five-year period of parole ineligibility.

Superior Court Judge Albert Garofolo set Salaam's bail at \$250,000 cash/no 10% and he was remanded to the Atlantic County Justice Facility.

*****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.