

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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MAYS LANDING – A woman has been charged with aggravated assault and endangering an injured person in connection with the discovery of a deceased New York male found dead at the Rodeway Inn last month, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced today.

Authorities arrested Ericka D. Pugh last night at 115th and Lennox Avenue in Harlem, New York City, for her alleged role in the death of Victor Castillo, 27, of College Point. Superior Court Judge James Savio set bail at \$150,000 cash. Pugh remains in custody in New York pending extradition proceedings, Prosecutor Housel said.

On Jan. 25 at 3:30 a.m., Atlantic City police responded to a 911 call for a disturbance in a room at the hotel located at 3601 Pacific Avenue. Upon arrival, the officers discovered a man, later identified as Castillo, and notification of next of kin was made, Prosecutor Housel stated.

Atlantic County Medical Examiner Dr. Hydow Park conducted an autopsy on Castillo later that day. The cause of death is pending.

Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit detectives are continuing their investigation along with members of the Atlantic City Police Department.

Aggravated assault is a second-degree crime. If convicted, an individual faces up to 10 years in prison subject to the No Early Release Act, which requires a defendant to serve 85 percent of a prison term before being eligible for parole and up to a \$150,000 fine.

*****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.