

# ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

4997 Unami Boulevard, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

**Theodore F. L. Housel**

**Prosecutor**

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## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release  
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2 Page (s)

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**MAYS LANDING** – An Egg Harbor Township man charged with killing his wife and dumping her body on the side of a creek entered a not guilty plea today at his arraignment, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel stated.

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.

Hilyard was indicted in February on the charge of aggravated manslaughter. In addition, he is charged with possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose; that being a ligature, hindering prosecution and tampering with physical evidence.

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 up to \$240,000 in fines.

The case is back in court before Superior Court Judge James E. Isman on March 16. Assistant Prosecutor Donna Fetzer represented the prosecution at today's proceeding.

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

**\*\*\*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.