

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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2 Page (s)

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MAYS LANDING – A 17-year-old male was sentenced to eight years in prison today for the July 2009 stabbing death of an Atlantic City man, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel stated.

In accordance with a Jan. 12, 2010, plea agreement to reckless manslaughter, Blake Newton, of Atlantic City, must serve 85-percent of the prison term before being eligible for parole in connection with the death of 53-year-old Alford Callum. Newton and Callum got into an altercation over a bicycle on July 20, 2009, in the 800 block of North Maryland Avenue in Atlantic City. Newton stabbed Callum in the chest. The victim was rushed to the AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center, City Division, where he was pronounced dead at 7:20 p.m. of a single knife wound to his chest. The defendant was charged with the crime the following day and transported to the Harborfields Youth Detention Center in Egg Harbor City pending a Family Court hearing. He was waived to Adult Court in August 2009 and indicted in September 2009, Prosecutor Housel stated.

Several of the victim's family members attended an emotional sentencing this morning before Superior Court Judge James E. Isman.

Chief Assistant Prosecutor Chet Wiech told the court that there were three things he was sure of in this case; the victim did not deserve to die; it was a senseless death over a \$30 bicycle and he could understand why some of the victim's family members did not think the sentence was adequate because no amount of time in prison would be enough.

However, Wiech said that in evaluating the case the state concluded the sentencing was in the interest of justice and fairness.

Judge Isman agreed with the prosecution and also said that this was the only juvenile he could remember in a case involving a gun or a knife who showed any remorse for what he had done.

Prior to Judge Isman imposing sentence, Newton sobbed as he apologized to the victim's family for his actions and stated that if he could trade places with the victim he would.

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.