

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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MAYS LANDING – Two 16-year-old Pleasantville males charged in connection with the death of a mentally challenged man whose body was found in the tidal marshes along Leeds Avenue in Pleasantville on Christmas night, will be tried as adults, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced this afternoon.

Following the State's filing of a motion to move the matter to the Law Division-Criminal, Shabani Saunders and Kisheen Greene went before Family Court Judge James Jackson today and voluntarily waived to Adult Court. The youths are charged with felony murder, armed robbery, conspiracy to commit armed robbery, and weapons offenses, for allegedly killing Kenneth Mack, 42, of 1 Oyster Bay in Absecon. In addition to those charges, Saunders is charged with aggravated manslaughter because it is alleged that he acted alone in throwing the victim into the water as part of the assault, Prosecutor Housel stated.

Pleasantville police acting on information, responded to the 200 block of Leeds Avenue at 7:45 p.m. on Dec. 25, where they discovered a body of a man, later identified as the victim dead in the marsh. Mack was last seen in the area of Linden Avenue and Leeds Avenue on Dec. 14. A family member contacted police and reported him missing that same day.

Atlantic County Medical Examiner Dr. Hydow Park performed an autopsy on the victim and determined he suffered sudden cardiac death associated with being assaulted and thrown in the frigid water 11 days prior to his body being discovered, Prosecutor Housel stated.

Saunders and Greene were lodged in Harborfields Juvenile Detention Center in Egg Harbor City on Jan. 7. They were transported to the Atlantic County Justice Facility this afternoon where bail was set at \$500,000 full cash.

*****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.