

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

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2 Page (s)

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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, had their first appearance today in the Criminal Division of Superior Court, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel stated.

Shabani Saunders and Kisheen Greene went before Superior Court Judge Bernard E. DeLury during separate hearings today. The juveniles 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, according to First Assistant Prosecutor Murray Talasnik.

Saunders asked that the Judge read the complaint against him and stated that he understood the charges against him. Greene waived the reading of the complaint. Both juveniles are also charged with the alleged Jan. 5 robbery and assault of Juan Fuentes in Pleasantville. These charges were also moved to the Adult Court for prosecution, Talasnik 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 Mack suffered sudden cardiac death associated with being assaulted and thrown in the frigid water, Prosecutor Housel had stated.

Following the State's filing of a motion to move the matter to the Superior Court Criminal Division, Saunders and Greene went before a Family Court Judge on Monday and voluntarily waived jurisdiction to Adult Court.

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 on Monday afternoon where bail was set at \$500,000 full cash. After a bail review, Superior Court Judge James E. Isman increased the bail for each suspect to \$1 million cash or property, no bond and no 10-percent.

*****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.