

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

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MAYS LANDING— An Atlantic City man entered a guilty plea today to one count of reckless manslaughter, in a case that had previously ended in two hung juries, for the fatal shooting of an Atlantic City man during a dispute over a drug sale. The defendant faces up to 10 years in prison when he is sentenced in August, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced.

In accordance with the plea agreement, Terryn Kelsey, of 1922 Beach Avenue, must serve 85 percent of the prison term imposed for killing Booker Purnell, 29, of Brights Court. Kelsey also entered a guilty plea to an unrelated drug charge and faces four years in prison to run concurrent to the homicide sentence, according to Chief Assistant Prosecutor Chet Wiech.

During the plea hearing this morning, Kelsey admitted that on Aug. 7, 2007, he killed Purnell while he was in the victim's vehicle, which was parked in a lot adjacent to the intersection of Sheridan and Beach Avenues in Atlantic City. Purnell was shot four times and Kelsey was arrested shortly thereafter.

Kelsey remains in the Atlantic County Justice facility pending his Aug. 12 sentencing before Superior Court Judge James E. Isman.

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.