

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

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MAYS LANDING— An Atlantic County Grand Jury returned an indictment today on one charging of murder against a former Atlantic City man in connection with a 1987 killing of a woman, whose body was discovered in a vacant lot in Atlantic City next to a business formerly known as Garwood Mills Department Store, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced today.

It is alleged that Dellmus Colvin, 51, strangled Donna Lee White, 27, of 1506 Belfield Avenue, in Somers Point and dumped her body in the vacant lot. White's body was discovered at 10 a.m. on Sept. 15, 1987. At the time of the killing, Colvin was charged with hindering apprehension and tampering with evidence. The case was closed after then Atlantic County Medical Examiner Donald Jason conducted an autopsy and determined that the victim died of acute cocaine intoxication.

In the fall of 2009, Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit detectives were involved in a review of cold case files and while searching the FBI database, known as ViCAP, they discovered that the same Dellmus Colvin was being investigated for an unrelated crime in Toledo, Ohio. As a result of the information obtained by that police department, the Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit traveled to Toledo to update their investigation into the 1987 death of Donna White. The results of that investigation were presented to a Grand Jury this afternoon and the jury returned the one-count indictment according to First Assistant Prosecutor Murray Talasnik.

Murder is a crime of the first degree carrying with it a potential sentence of 30 years to life in prison and a \$200,000 in fines. If convicted, Colvin would not be subject to the No Early Release Act, which went into effect in June of 1997.

"I'm very please that even after 23 years we were able to begin to bring closure to this case," Prosecutor Housel stated.

***The indictment is merely an accusation. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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.