

# ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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**Theodore F. L. Housel**

**Prosecutor**

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## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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MAYS LANDING— An Atlantic City man entered a guilty plea today to one count of unlawful possession of a handgun and two counts of resisting arrest in connection with a 2008 incident at the Stanley Holmes Village apartment complex, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel stated.

On Nov. 21, 2008 at 6:30 p.m., Atlantic City police received information Mukhtar Zaffa, 22, of 310 Robinson Avenue, was in possession of a handgun in the area of 1600 Drexel Place in the Stanley Holmes Village. Police spotted Zaffa at the corner of Adriatic and Kentucky Avenues and attempted to stop him. Zaffa led Officers Peter Calabrese and Darrin Lorady on a foot chase through portions of the apartment complex. During the course of the pursuit, Zaffa pulled a loaded .380-caliber semi-automatic handgun from his waistband and threw it on the ground. The handgun was recovered in front of 419 Westminster Place in the apartment complex. Zaffa was taken into custody in the parking lot of the New York Avenue School after a brief struggle, according to Assistant Prosecutor John Flammer.

On Monday, the day Zaffa was to go to trial, he entered the guilty plea. He will be sentenced in the judge's discretion. He faces a minimum of five years in prison of which he would have to serve three years before parole eligibility. The defendant will be sentenced on Sept. 24 before Superior Court Judge Michael A. Donio.

"This case was made through vigilant police work and an anonymous tip relayed to police that this defendant was in possession of a handgun," Flammer said. "Given the recent spate of gun violence in Atlantic County it's imperative that concerned citizens pass this type of information on to the appropriate law enforcement authorities."

"It's important for people to know that if you illegally carry a handgun in New Jersey state prison is virtually assured," Flammer said.

**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.**