

# ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

4997 Unami Boulevard, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

**Theodore F. L. Housel**

**Prosecutor**

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## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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MAYS LANDING— Superior Court Judge James Isman sentenced a Pleasantville man to 10 years in prison today for two separate charges of unlawful possession of a handgun, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel stated.

Isaiah Cooper, 20, who entered a guilty plea in January to the weapons offenses, must serve five years in prison before being eligible for parole. Cooper was arrested on an outstanding, unrelated warrant, on June 25, 2009 and transported to the Atlantic County Justice Facility. While being processed, he was found to be in possession of a loaded .380 caliber-handgun and charged with unlawful possession of a weapon. While out on bail on that possession charge, Cooper was the passenger in a vehicle that was pulled over in Pleasantville on Sept. 8, 2009. Officers told Cooper to keep his hands visible. He refused to do so. Officers then ordered him to exit the vehicle. At first he refused. He finally stepped out of the car, but right before exiting the vehicle he reached down in the floor area of the car. When officers opened the car door all of the way, they observed a .45-caliber fully loaded handgun. Cooper was arrested and charged with unlawful possession of a handgun, according to Assistant Prosecutor Mario Formica.

**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.**