

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

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MAYS LANDING— Lloyd Massey's 2002 triple capital murder conviction for slaying three young men 10 years ago was affirmed by the Appellate Division yesterday, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel stated today.

Massey, 30, used an AK-47, an assault rifle, to kill 20-year-old Michael Demps, Lamont Wilson 19, and Richard White, 26, in Atlantic City in the early morning hours on Sept. 8, 2000. Terrance Harris, 21 at the time, who was in the car with the victims but managed to survive, testified on behalf of the state. The jury could not agree on the death penalty so Massey was sentenced on Sept. 19, 2002, to consecutive life terms. During the five-month-long trial before Superior Court Judge James Isman, scores of witnesses testified on behalf of the State as well as the defendant. Massey, of Pleasantville, asserted in his appeal that Gary Way, who was in Massey's vehicle at the time of the 4 a.m. killings, was the shooter. However, the Appellate Court determined that there was substantial, credible evidence indicating Massey committed the crimes.

First Assistant Prosecutor Murray Talasnik who represented the state during the lengthy trial stated today that it is important for the public to know that this case was affirmed. "If we are going to ask for the public's assistance in alerting us to crimes, it is of the utmost importance that citizens know that law enforcement officers are doing their job correctly," Talasnik said.

In 2007, the triple murder case was remanded to the Trial Court for fact-finding purposes. It took several months but the end result was the same. The triple life terms stood.

Talasnik stated that this case took a long and arduous legal path generating thousands of pages of transcripts.

"It was nearly 10 years ago that law enforcement officers responded to the scene on the White Horse Pike where three young men had been slaughtered with a high-powered assault rifle. In the two years that followed the tireless efforts of law enforcement officers from the Atlantic City Police Department, the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office and the New Jersey State Police, resulted in the arrest and conviction of Lloyd Massey as the killer," Talasnik said. "The decision by the Appellate Division today affirming the

conviction will hopefully put to rest any lingering doubt that the real killer was properly identified, charged and convicted. Critics of the criminal justice system frequently complain about how much time it can take for justice to occur. Such criticism is understood in a case like this where a full decade separates the crime from the approval of the conviction by the Appellate Court. However, given the stakes involved, it is far more important to get it right than to get it fast.”

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.