

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
Sept. 29, 2010
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MAYS LANDING– Authorities are investigating the death of a person found burned beyond recognition in the back of a four-door car in Hammonton early Wednesday morning, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced.

At 3:18 a.m. this morning Hammonton police and fire personnel responded for a 911 report of a vehicle fire in the 100 block of Linda Avenue. Upon arrival, personnel discovered a vehicle fully engulfed in flames. When the fire was extinguished personnel discovered charred human remains. The Prosecutor's Office was subsequently notified and Major Crimes Unit detectives responded to the scene, Prosecutor Housel said.

As of this time the victim has not been identified. An autopsy is scheduled for 1 p.m. this afternoon. More information will be released as it becomes available.

The vehicle was removed from the scene for further examination. The cause and circumstances of the fire and the identity and death of the individual are still under investigation.

The Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit is conducting the investigating along with the Hammonton Police Department.

Burlington County Medical Examiner Dr. Ian Hood performed an autopsy on the victim in the Hammonton incident. He found evidence of blunt force trauma to the head and evidence that the victim may have been alive when the fire was set. The identity of the victim is not yet known.

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.