

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE
4997 Unami Boulevard, Mays Landing, NJ 08330
Theodore F. L. Housel
Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

For Further Information Contact:

Madelaine Vitale (609) 909-7855 or (609) 457-7359

Oct. 17, 2010

MAYS LANDING- Authorities are seeking a suspect or suspects in connection with an **early morning discovery** of an Egg Harbor City mother of two dead, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced Sunday.

Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit detectives responded to the Harbor City Apartments located on Atlantic Avenue in Egg Harbor City at 12:14 a.m., for a report that a resident walking to his mailbox discovered a body behind buildings J and K. Upon arrival, detectives located the victim, who was later identified as Deanna Downs, 29, of an apartment in the G building.

Atlantic County Medical Examiner Dr. Hydow Park pronounced the victim dead at the scene and performed an autopsy. **Although investigators at the scene believed the victim died as a result of a gunshot wound, a subsequent autopsy determined the cause of death to be blunt force trauma.**

Notification of next of kin was made, Prosecutor Housel said.

More details will follow as they become available.

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.