



Cape May County Prosecutor's Office

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NEWS

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County Prosecutor

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Cape May Court House, New Jersey - Cape May County Prosecutor Robert L. Taylor and Chief Joseph Fisher of the Wildwood Police Department announce the culmination of a multi-jurisdictional investigation into a drug-induced death that occurred in Wildwood on September 12, 2006.

The Wildwood Police Department and the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office Major Crime Unit and Narcotics Task Force initiated an investigation into the sudden death of Johanna Ayala, age 24, who resided in the 200 East Block of Cresse Avenue in the City of Wildwood. The investigation revealed that Ayala collapsed after ingesting an amount of suspected heroin. Ayala was transported to Burdette Tomlin Memorial Hospital by Wildwood Rescue where she later died.

The subsequent investigation resulted in the arrests of Aneudy Cruz-Vega, age 26, of East Roberts Avenue in Wildwood and Hector Ramos-Collazo, age 36, of East Taylor Avenue in Wildwood for Strict Liability for Drug-Induced Death, a crime of the first degree, Distribution of a Controlled Dangerous Substances, a crime of the third degree, Distribution of a Controlled Dangerous Substance within 1000 feet of School Property, a crime of the third degree and Distribution of a Controlled Dangerous Substance within 500 feet of a Public Place, a crime of the second degree. Cruz-Vega and Ramos-Collazo were committed to the Cape May County Correctional Center, each in lieu of \$200,000 cash bail.

Prosecutor Taylor stated that persons convicted of a first degree crime may be incarcerated in the New Jersey State Prison between ten and twenty years. Persons convicted of a second degree crime may be incarcerated in the New Jersey State Prison between five and ten years. Persons convicted of a third degree crime may be incarcerated in the New Jersey State Prison between three and five years.

Prosecutor Taylor commended the cooperative effort of officers of the Wildwood Police and the Prosecutor's Office with the successful resolution of this investigation.

This investigation is on going to determine if the suspected heroin was laced with Fentanyl, a highly potent analgesic that has been linked to numerous overdose deaths in Cape May County and the Philadelphia region.

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