



Cape May County Prosecutor's Office

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NEWS

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County Prosecutor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Burleigh, New Jersey – County Prosecutor Robert L. Taylor and Chief Joseph Evangelista of the Middle Township Police Department announced today the investigation of a shooting that occurred on Pennsylvania Avenue in the Burleigh section of Middle Township early yesterday evening.

At approximately 7:44pm on Sunday evening, the Middle Township Police Department received a call of a shooting that occurred on Pennsylvania Avenue. Upon arrival, officers found John Cavicchio, a 23 year old male who resides in Wildwood, New Jersey, in a vehicle located on the highway, the apparent victim of a gunshot wound to the head. Cavicchio was transported by helicopter to the Atlantic City Medical Center where he remained in critical condition. Members of the Middle Township Police Department and Cape May County Regional SWAT Team conducted a search of the immediate area for suspects with negative results.

An intensive investigation was initiated by members of the Middle Township Police Department and Cape May County Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Units, culminating early this morning with criminal complaints being signed, charging Seth Gordon Cooper, an 18 year old male from the unit block of Goshen Road, Cape May Court House, New Jersey with the attempted murder of John Cavicchio. Cooper had been charged with Attempted Murder, a first degree crime and Aggravated Assault with a Weapon, a second degree crime. Persons convicted of Murder may be incarcerated in the New Jersey State Prison up to a life term, other first degree crimes may be incarcerated in the New Jersey State Prison up to twenty years and second degree crimes up to ten years.

Sadly, John Cavicchio subsequently died today during the early afternoon hours. A new criminal complaint has been signed against Seth Gordon Cooper for Murder, a crime of the first degree. No bail has been set. Detectives continue to investigate to determine the circumstances surrounding this crime.

Prosecutor Taylor and Chief Evangelista are asking for the public's assistance in apprehending Cooper, who should be considered armed and dangerous. Any person who knows Cooper's location or has information regarding this investigation is urged to contact their local police department or the Major Crimes Units of the Middle Township Police Department at 465-8704 and Cape May County Prosecutor's Office at 465-1135.

Attached is a wanted flyer containing the photograph and physical description of Seth Gordon Cooper.