



Cape May County Prosecutor's Office

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NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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POLICE INVESTIGATE DEATH IN MIDDLE TOWNSHIP

Dias Creek, New Jersey – County Prosecutor Robert L. Taylor and Middle Township Chief of Police Joseph Evangelista announced the investigation of a death that occurred on November 4, 2006 at the Delsea Woods Trailer Park located on Route Number 47 in the Dias Creek section of Middle Township, New Jersey.

On November 4th, 2006, at approximately 10:00pm, Middle Township Police Department received a report of a person in distress. Police and rescue personnel responded at which time, Christopher Santo, 41 years old, who resides in the Delsea Woods Trailer Park, was transported to the emergency room at Burdette Tomlin Memorial Hospital where he was subsequently pronounced dead.

Members of the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office and Middle Township Police Department initiated a joint investigation. The investigation revealed there was an altercation between Mr. Santo and an individual identified as John Hewitt, 36 years old, also a resident in the Delsea Woods Trailer Park, during which Mr. Santo collapsed. The Prosecutor's Office Crime Scene Unit also responded and processed the crime scene.

On November 5, 2006, Dr. C. Blanchard, M.D., Assistant Medical Examiner of the New Jersey State Southern Regional Medical Examiner's Office performed an autopsy on the victim. The cause and manner of death are both pending further study and investigation.

John Hewitt was arrested for endangering an injured person for failing to render aid to Mr. Santo after the alleged altercation. Endangering an injured person is a crime of the third degree and if convicted, is punishable by between three and five years in New Jersey State Prison.

Municipal Court Judge Peter Tourison set bail at \$2,500.00 full cash. The arraignment is scheduled for today, November 6, 2006 at 10:00am. The Middle Township Police Department Detective Bureau, New Jersey State Southern Regional Medical Examiner's Office and the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office continue to investigate the incident.