



Cape May County Prosecutor's Office

4 Moore Road, DN-110
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210-1601
Telephone: (609) 465-1135
Fax: (609) 465-1347
Website: www.cmcpros.net

NEWS

Contact: Robert L. Taylor
County Prosecutor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 14, 2006

Cape May Court House, New Jersey – County Prosecutor Robert L. Taylor and Chief Joseph Evangelista of the Middle Township Police Department reported today that progress is being made in the December 10, 2006 shooting of John Cavicchio in Burleigh, New Jersey. Detectives from the Major Crimes Units of the Middle Township Police Department and Cape May County Prosecutor's Office have worked around the clock since the shooting pursuing leads that resulted in yesterday's arrest of Raymond A. Fryar, 21 years old of the 300 block of Bayview Avenue, Rio Grande and Riley L. Cooper, 20 years old of the unit block of Goshen Road, Goshen, New Jersey. Both individuals have been identified as being present during the altercation that led to the death of Mr. Cavicchio.

Raymond Fryar was arrested yesterday in a family residence located in the 6200 block of Ellsworth Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with the assistance of the Philadelphia Police Department Homicide Unit and charged with being a fugitive from justice, wanted by New Jersey authorities for parole violation. Fryar will be incarcerated at the Philadelphia County Prison System awaiting extradition proceedings. There is no bail on the parole violation and no bail has been set on the fugitive from justice charge. Subsequent investigation led to charges of Conspiracy to Commit Aggravated Assault, a third degree crime; Possession of a Weapon, a second degree crime; and Hindering Apprehension or Prosecution, a third degree crime. Bail has been set on the local charges at \$35,000 full cash bail set by the Honorable Peter Tourison, Judge of the Municipal Court.

Riley Cooper was arrested yesterday at his residence without incident and charged with Conspiracy to Commit Aggravated Assault, a third degree crime; Possession of a Weapon, a second degree crime; and Hindering Apprehension or Prosecution, a third degree crime. Cooper was lodged in the Cape May County Correctional Center in lieu of posting \$50,000 full cash bail set by the Honorable Peter Tourison, Judge of the Municipal Court.

Detectives, as a result of their investigation, recovered what they believe may be the murder weapon hidden in a bag located in the woods off of Honeysuckle Lane in the Cape May Court House section of Middle Township. The County Sheriff's Department Canine Unit and detectives searched a wooded area last evening locating a bag with two handguns described as a semi-automatic and a revolver. These weapons were secured as evidence and will be forensically examined and processed.

The shooting leading to these arrests occurred on Pennsylvania Avenue in the Burleigh section of Middle Township at approximately 7:44pm on Sunday evening, December 10, 2006. 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 subsequently died. An intensive investigation was initiated by members of the Middle Township Police Department and Cape May County Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Units, initially leading to 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. The complaint charging Seth Cooper with Murder had been signed upon the death of Cavicchio.

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, second degree crimes up to ten years, and third degree crimes up to five years.

Seth Cooper has not been apprehended at this time and both Prosecutor Taylor and Chief Evangelista continue to request 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.