



## Cape May County Prosecutor's Office

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# NEWS

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*County Prosecutor*

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 23, 2006**

***Cape May Court House, New Jersey*** – Cape May County Prosecutor Robert L. Taylor and Chief Joseph Evangelista of the Middle Township Police Department announced the culmination of a multi-jurisdictional homicide investigation which resulted in the arrest early this morning of Seth Gordon Cooper of Goshen Road in Cape May Court House, New Jersey.

Based upon information developed by detective personnel from the Major Crimes Units of the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office and Middle Township Police Department; the Suffern (NY), Police Department; and the United States Marshals Service Regional Task Force, officers from the Walterboro (SC) Police Department and Colleton County (SC) Sheriff's Department located Cooper at a restaurant off an exit of Interstate 95 in a rural section of South Carolina. When approached by authorities, Cooper surrendered and was taken into custody without incident. Cooper was transported to the Colleton County Jail and lodged as a fugitive from justice based upon murder charges stemming from the December 10, 2006 shooting death of John Cavicchio. The shooting occurred following an altercation between two groups of young men on Pennsylvania Avenue in the Whitesboro section of Middle Township, Cape May County, New Jersey.

Cooper is charged with being a fugitive from justice and was committed under a condition of no bail awaiting extradition back to New Jersey where he will be incarcerated on the murder charge. Prosecutor Taylor stated that persons convicted of murder may be sentenced up to life in the New Jersey State Prison.

Prosecutor Taylor praised the extraordinary effort put forth by the detectives assigned to the Major Crime Units of the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office and Middle Township Police Department to bring this investigation to a successful conclusion. "The men and women of these agencies have worked day and night since the shooting both in investigating the murder and following leads in several states due to Cooper's fugitive status." Taylor also commended the exceptional cooperation between all the agencies involved in Cooper's apprehension, particularly the United State Marshals Service Regional Task Force.