



Cape May County Prosecutor's Office

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NEWS

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County Prosecutor

For Immediate Release – March 29, 2011

Cape May Court House, New Jersey - Cape May County Prosecutor Robert L. Taylor, Middle Township Police Chief Christopher Leusner and Wildwood Police Chief Steven Long announce the on-going investigation into the serious motor vehicle crash that occurred in the Rio Grande section of Middle Township at approximately 10:30am this morning.

The Cape May County Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit and Fatal Crash Investigation Unit, the Middle Township Police Department Patrol and Detective Division along with the Wildwood Police Department are investigating. The incident began in the City of Wildwood when a patrol officer attempted to make a motor vehicle stop on a 2003 Nissan Altima that was being operated by 36 year old Anthony Friel of the 200 block of Matthews Avenue in the Villas section of Lower Township. After initially stopping, Friel fled from the location of the motor vehicle stop and out of Wildwood over the George Redding Bridge at a high rate of speed, according to witnesses. Friel was then observed driving at a very high rate of speed westbound on Rio Grande Boulevard by a Middle Township Police patrol officer. Middle Township Police next encountered the Nissan following its involvement in a serious crash at Route 47 South and 5th Avenue in Rio Grande a short time later. Investigation revealed that the Nissan first struck a commercial truck traveling northbound of Route 47 South. Following the impact, the Nissan careened into the New Jersey Transit bus stop located on the northeast corner of 5th Avenue and Route 47 South. Three pedestrians who were at the bus stop at the time of the crash were struck and injured. Following the crash, Friel fled on foot and was subsequently apprehended by

Middle Township Police patrol officers. Three persons were airlifted to AtlanticCare Regional Medical Center- City Division. Two other individuals are being treated at Cape Regional Medical Center. The conditions of the injured are not being released at this time.

Friel has been charged with Eluding Police with a Motor Vehicle, a crime of the second degree and various motor vehicle offenses. Bail has been set at \$50,000 cash. Additional charges are pending. Prosecutor Taylor advises that persons convicted of second degree crimes are subject to a sentence of 5 to 10 years in New Jersey State Prison.

This investigation is on-going and additional information will be released at a later time.

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