



Cape May County Prosecutor's Office

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NEWS

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County Prosecutor

For Immediate Release – April 6, 2011

Cape May Court House, New Jersey - Cape May County Prosecutor Robert L. Taylor and Middle Township Police chief Christopher Leusner announce that additional charges have been filed as a result of the March 29, 2011 serious motor vehicle crash that occurred on Route 47 in Rio Grande.

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 investigated this crash in which a 2003 Nissan Altima that was being operated by 36 year old Anthony Friel rear ended a commercial vehicle which caused Friel's vehicle to careen into a New Jersey Transit bus stop. The bus stop was occupied by a number of pedestrians at the time of the crash. One of the pedestrians that was injured is a 37 year old local man who remains hospitalized as a result of the injuries he sustained in the crash.

The investigation determined that Friel was travelling at a high rate of speed westbound from Wildwood into Middle Township on Rio Grande Boulevard in an attempt to elude police officers when the crash occurred. The investigation also revealed that Friel was under the influence of a controlled dangerous substance at the time.

The additional charges of Aggravated Assault by Auto, a second degree crime and Leaving the Scene of an Motor Vehicle Accident, a crime of the third degree were served on Friel who remains incarcerated at the Cape May County Correctional Center in lieu of bail.

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 and persons convicted of third degree crimes are subject to a sentence of 3 to 5 years in prison.

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