

# NEWS RELEASE

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**Luis A. Valentin, Prosecutor**

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## **FARMINGDALE MAN INDICTED FOR LEAVING THE SCENE OF A COLLISION IN WALL TOWNSHIP WHICH CAUSED THE DEATH OF A PEDESTRIAN**

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On July 19, 2010, a Monmouth County Grand Jury returned an indictment charging Walter Poland, 46, of Farmingdale, N.J., with second degree Knowingly Leaving the Scene of a Motor Vehicle Accident Resulting in Death and third degree Causing Death While Driving With a Suspended Driver's License. The charges relate to a fatal pedestrian "hit-and-run" collision which occurred on October 4, 2009, at approximately 7:05 p.m. on State Highway 35 in Wall Township, N.J. As a result of Poland's actions, John Chiarell, 54, of Wall Township, N.J., was killed.

Mr. Chiarell's death was the subject of a joint investigation which was conducted by the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, the Monmouth County Serious Collision Analysis Response Team (S.C.A.R.T.), and the Wall Township Police Department. The investigation revealed that the collision occurred while Poland was driving an ice cream truck which was owned by Touchdown Tommy, L.L.C., of Manchester, N.J., northbound on State Highway 35. Shortly before Poland reached the intersection of State Highway 35 and 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Mr. Chiarell, a pedestrian who was walking with the assistance of a walker, fell and was lying on the shoulder of State Highway 35. Mr. Poland's vehicle ran over Mr. Chiarell's body, thereby causing his death. Mr. Poland did not stop or report the incident. Information provided by a witness to the collision eventually led investigating Wall Township police officers to Mr. Poland's residence in Farmingdale, where Poland was arrested.

If convicted, the maximum potential custodial sentence for Knowingly Leaving the Scene of a Motor Vehicle Accident Resulting in Death is up to a 10 year State Prison term. If convicted, the maximum potential custodial sentence for Causing Death While Driving Unlicensed is a five year State Prison term. Poland is currently free on \$250,000 bail, which was set by Monmouth County Superior Court Judge Richard W. English.

**Despite these charges, every defendant is presumed innocent, unless and until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, following a trial at which the defendant has all of the trial rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and state law.**

**The case is assigned to Assistant Monmouth County Prosecutor Jennifer Lipp. Poland is represented by Charles Shaw, Esquire, of Spring Lake, N.J.**

**Released: July 19, 2010**