

NEWS RELEASE



Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office
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LONG BRANCH MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN FATAL STABBING

On August 2, 2010, John L. Erving, Jr., 44, of Long Branch, N.J., pled guilty to one count of second degree Aggravated Manslaughter in connection with the August 7, 2008, fatal stabbing of Nikki Leake, 54, also of Long Branch.

On the morning of August 8, 2008, the Long Branch Police Department received a "911" telephone call reporting that there was an unresponsive female in an apartment located on New Street in Long Branch. Police responded to the residence where they discovered Ms. Leake's lifeless. A subsequent autopsy, conducted by the Monmouth County Medical Examiner's Office, determined that Ms. Leake died as the result of multiple stab wounds to her chest and abdomen.

A joint investigation into Ms. Leake's death was conducted by the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office and the Long Branch Police Department. The investigation revealed that Erving and Ms. Leake were involved in a dispute and that the dispute escalated to the point at which Erving stabbed the victim. Erving then fled the scene and discarded the murder weapon, which was subsequently recovered in the course of the investigation.

Erving entered his guilty plea before Monmouth County Superior Court Judge Richard English. The guilty plea was entered into pursuant to a negotiated plea agreement with the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office. In accordance with the terms of the plea agreement, the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office will recommend Judge English sentence Erving to a 20 year State Prison term. Aggravated Manslaughter is subject to the "No Early Release Act," which means that Erving must serve 85% of any custodial term imposed for that crime before he will become eligible for release on parole.

Erving has been held at the Monmouth County Correctional Institution in lieu of \$2,000,000 bail since his arrest.

Erving is scheduled to appear before Judge English on October 1, 2010, for sentencing.

The case is assigned to Assistant Monmouth County Prosecutors Sean J. Brennan and Michael J. Costanzo. Erving is represented by Shelley Logan, Esquire, of Freehold, N.J.

Released: August 2, 2010