

NEWS RELEASE



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Luis A. Valentin, Prosecutor

LONG BRANCH MAN CHARGED WITH ARSON FOR HIRE AND DESECRATING HUMAN REMAINS

Victim's ex-wife, ex-father-in-law charged with Murder

On August 25, 2010, Anthony Morris, 31, of Long Branch, N.J., was arrested and charged with one count of first degree Arson for Hire, one count of fourth degree Tampering with Physical Evidence, one count of second degree Desecrating Human Remains, one count of third degree Hindering Apprehension, and one count of second degree Conspiracy to Commit Arson and/or Desecration of Human Remains. The charges are in connection with a car fire which was reported to the Long Branch Police Department in the early morning hours of August 18, 2010, and the discovery of a deceased adult male human body in the trunk of the car after the fire was extinguished.

The car fire and the presence of the deceased human body in the trunk of the burned car have been the subject of an ongoing investigation which is being conducted by the Monmouth and Ocean County Prosecutor's Offices and the Long Branch, Ocean Township, Manchester Township and Neptune Township police departments. The deceased body has been determined to be Stephen Moore, and his death has been ruled a homicide. The car fire has been determined to have been deliberately set.

Following Morris' arrest, Monmouth County Superior Court Judge Thomas F. Scully set bail for Morris at \$500,000, "cash only." Morris is being held at the Monmouth County Correctional Institution in lieu of bail. Morris' Initial Appearance and Bail Review in Monmouth County Superior Court has been tentatively scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on August 26, 2010.

Morris is the third individual to be charged as a result of the investigation into Mr. Moore's death. Kathleen Dorsett, 36, of Ocean Township, N.J., was arrested and charged with one count of first degree Murder and one count of fourth degree Tampering with Physical Evidence on August 23, 2010. For additional information regarding her arrest, please see the News Release entitled "Ocean Township Woman Charged with Murder of Former Husband" which was issued by the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office on August 23, 2010, and which

is available on-line at the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office official website: <http://www.prosecutor.co.monmouth.nj.us/press-releases.html>.

Kathleen Dorsett's father, Thomas Dorsett, 64, also of Ocean Township, N.J., was arrested and charged with one count of first degree Murder, two counts of fourth degree Tampering with Physical Evidence, and one count of third degree Tampering with a Witness on August 24, 2010. For additional information regarding his arrest, please see the News Release entitled "Ocean Township Man Charged with Murder of Former Son-In-Law" which was issued by the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office on August 24, 2010, and which is available on-line at the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office official website: <http://www.prosecutor.co.monmouth.nj.us/press-releases.html>.

The investigation into Mr. Moore's death has also led to additional charges being lodged against Thomas Dorsett. On August 25, 2010, Dorsett was additionally charged with one count of first degree Arson for Hire and one count of second degree Conspiracy to Commit Arson and/or Desecration of Human Remains. Monmouth County Superior Court Judge Thomas F. Scully set bail for Dorsett on the additional charges at \$500,000, "cash only." Dorsett remains a patient at a hospital in Monmouth County where he is being guarded by the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office. In the event that Dorsett is discharged from the hospital prior to posting bail he will be transferred to and lodged in the Monmouth County Correctional Institution. If Dorsett is lodged in the Monmouth County Correctional Institution in lieu of bail, he will then be scheduled for an Initial Appearance and Bail Review in Monmouth County Superior Court. His total bail on all charges is now \$3,000,000, "cash only."

If convicted of Arson for Hire, the maximum potential custodial sentence is a State Prison term of up to 20 years. If convicted of Desecrating Human Remains or Conspiracy to Commit Arson and/or Desecration of Human Remains, the maximum potential custodial sentence is a State Prison term of up to 10 years. If convicted of Hindering Apprehension, the maximum potential custodial sentence is a State Prison term of up to 5 years. If convicted of Tampering with Physical Evidence, the maximum potential custodial sentence is up to an 18 month term.

Monmouth County Prosecutor Luis A. Valentin stated, "The cooperative efforts of the law enforcement personnel involved in this investigation have resulted in the arrest of two individuals who were responsible for the violent and senseless killing of Mr. Moore as well as a third individual who accepted a cash payment in exchange for agreeing to attempt to conceal their homicidal act by setting a car on fire which contained Mr. Moore's body."

Prosecutor Valentin continues to request that any individuals in possession of information which may potentially further the investigation contact Detective Jeffrey Wilbert of the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office at 1-800/ 533-7443, Detective Michael Decker of the Long Branch Police Department at 732/ 571-5695, Detective Albert Vega of the Manchester Township Police Department at 732/ 657-6111, Detective Patrick Martin of the Ocean Township Police Department at 732/ 531-1800 and/or Detective Michael D'Amico of the Neptune Township Police Department at 732/ 988-8000.

In order to assist members of the public in determining whether they possess information regarding Mr. Moore's death and/or the disposal of his body, a photograph of Anthony Morris which was taken at the time of his arrest accompanies this News Release.

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.

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