



NEWARK POLICE DEPARTMENT  
220 ELKTON ROAD  
NEWARK, DE 19711



**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION**

JULY 24, 2009

## *Press Release*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On July 10, 2009 the Newark Police Department was contacted by the Carneys Point Township Police Department and Salem County Prosecutor's Office from New Jersey about a murder investigation they had been conducting, since May 4, 2009.

On Monday, May 4, 2009, the body of an unidentified black male was found on some property just off Courses Landing Road in Carneys Point Township, New Jersey. Following the autopsy, the case was ruled a homicide; the victim died from multiple gunshot wounds. The Carneys Point Twp. Police Department and Salem County Prosecutor's Office began their investigation; it took approximately four weeks to identify the victim as Sven Hinds (age 29) of New York City, New York. Their investigation revealed that the victim had made statements to acquaintances that he was concerned for his welfare and feared for his life, weeks leading up to his death.

At this point in the investigation, the reasons (motives for his death) for the victim's concern have yet to be determined with certainty. The investigation traced the suspect's and victim's location to the Super 8 Motel at 268 East Main Street in Newark, DE on the weekend of May 3, 2009. It is at this location in a room rented by the suspect, Leonard Michael Taylor (age 23 years) from the unit block of Anderson Court, Bear, DE where Hinds was murdered. Taylor is a classified gang member of the "Bloods". Crime scene processing performed by the Newark Police Department confirmed evidence of human blood inside the room where they stayed; further DNA analysis is pending.

Currently, Taylor is incarcerated in Harford County Maryland on a probation violation; his extradition to Delaware is pending. As the investigation is pending into other persons, the Newark Police Department is not making any comments and referring all responses to the Carneys Point Twp. Police Department and Salem County Prosecutor's Office.

Salem County Prosecutor's Office Chief of County Detectives Ralph Padilla stated *"The arrest of Taylor speaks volumes to the resolve and professionalism of the detectives from adjoining states that worked on this lengthy investigation."* *"The multi-state cooperative effort which brought this case to its investigative conclusion exemplifies what can be accomplished when dedicated public servants work together."*

**FOR THE MEDIA, Points of contact for the Newark Police Department:**

Lt. Gerald R. Simpson      302.366.7110 ext. 141 (Friday, July 24, 2009, till 4:00 pm) or email at:

[Gerald.simpson@cj.state.de.us](mailto:Gerald.simpson@cj.state.de.us)

Cpl. Gerald Bryda      302.366.7110 ext. 129 (Monday, July 27, 2009)

[Gerald.bryda@cj.state.de.us](mailto:Gerald.bryda@cj.state.de.us)

**TIPS OR INFORMATION ONLY NUMBERS BELOW**

**Newark Police Department Investigator's Information:**

Det. Fred Nelson      302.366.7110 ext. 136

**Points of Contact for New Jersey Investigators' Information:**

Salem County Prosecutor's Office:

Sgt. Steve Ware      856-935-7510

Carneys Point Twp Police Department:

Lt. Robert DiGregorio      856-299-1212

**Anonymous Tips:**

CRIME STOPPERS: 1-800-TIP-3333



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## *Press Release - Addendum*

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*Carneys Point Police Department Chief of Police Edmund Spinelli Jr. stated he would like to commend the efforts of the detectives responsible for bringing the defendant, Michael Taylor to justice. An investigation of this magnitude cannot come to an unfortunate but successful conclusion without their resilient effort and utilization of a multitude of resources. The professionalism and expertise displayed in this investigation speaks volumes for all of the officers involved. I previously stated that the detectives will do everything in their power to track those responsible for this heinous crime and we will find out who is responsible. The detectives have done just that. Although the investigation has led to the arrest of Taylor, additional arrests are anticipated for their involvement in this crime. The diligent work put forth will give closure to the victim, his family and the community.*

*Chief Paul Tiernan of the Newark Police Department would like to extend his appreciation to New Jersey law enforcement authorities, adding that their professionalism and diligent efforts working with the detectives of the Newark Police Department have brought a serious crime to a successful conclusion in the City of Newark.*

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