



# NEWS RELEASE

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## OFF DUTY NEWARK POLICE OFFICER SLAIN DURING APPARENT ROBBERY ATTEMPT IN PATERSON

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PATERSON, NEW JERSEY:

November 7, 2011

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes announced that off-duty Newark Police Detective Michael Morgan, Jr. was killed early this morning in an apparent robbery attempt in Paterson.

On Monday November 7, 2011 at approximately 3:00AM, Detective Morgan sustained a fatal gunshot wound to the torso inflicted by an as yet unidentified armed robbery suspect. Detective Morgan was having a conversation with a female acquaintance in the area of Straight Street and Getty Avenue in Paterson. The two were approached by a gunman who appeared to be an African-American, possibly in his early to mid- twenties, of average height and a slim build, and wearing dark- colored clothing. After demanding that both parties turn over their valuables, the gunman shot Detective Morgan before fleeing the scene with property of both victims. Upon responding to the scene of the shooting,

Paterson patrol officers located Detective Morgan who was immediately transported to St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, which was only several blocks away. Despite the efforts of the attending medical staff, the detective succumbed to his injuries shortly thereafter. The team of investigating detectives is pursuing the possibility that Detective Morgan's assailant was the same individual who perpetrated an armed robbery upon a female victim in the area of Getty Avenue and Elizabeth Street in Paterson approximately 15 minutes prior to the incident involving Detective Morgan.

Detective Michael Morgan, Jr. was 31 years old and joined the Newark Police Department in May of 2005. Most recently he had been assigned to the Special Investigation Task Force. The New Jersey State Policeman's Benevolent Association, Essex County Crime Stoppers and Newark Crime Stoppers have posted a total of \$25,000. in reward money for information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of the individual responsible for this robbery-homicide. Anyone having information which is believed to be of potential assistance to the investigative team is asked to contact the Paterson Police Department Detective Bureau at 973-321-1120.