



## OFFICE OF THE MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Willingboro Man Arrested for Murder**

A Willingboro man was arrested Monday afternoon and charged with the April 8 shooting death of Elliot Simon, Acting Mercer County Prosecutor Angelo J. Onofri and Trenton Police Director Ernest Parrey Jr. reported.

**Virgil R. Howard** (DOB 2.3.1990), of Ebbtine Lane, was located in a motel room in Bristol, Pa., by the U.S. Marshals NY/NJ Regional Fugitive Task Force and taken into custody without incident. He is charged with murder, felony murder, robbery, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, unlawful possession of a weapon and certain persons not to possess a firearm. Bail was set at \$1 million cash only by Mercer County Superior Court Judge Pedro J. Jimenez Jr.

On April 8, 2016, at approximately 9:08 p.m., Trenton police responded to the area of 37-49 N. Hermitage Avenue after the ShotSpotter system detected gunshots. Upon arrival, police found 52-year-old Simon in Boudinot Street suffering from gunshot wounds to the chest. The victim was transported to Capital Health Regional Medical Center where he was pronounced dead a short time later.

The charges are a result of an investigation by Detective Eric Hastings and the Mercer County Homicide Task Force.

Despite having been charged, every defendant is presumed innocent until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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