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**BRONX COUPLE INDICTED FOR IMPRISONING, ENDANGERING
TWO GIRLS, AGES THREE AND FOUR YEARS OLD
Left Alone Without Food, Children Began to Eat Foam Mattress;
Apartment Was in Deplorable Condition**

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a Bronx woman and her boyfriend have been indicted for the horrific neglect of the woman's two young daughters, who were found by police locked in a feces-dotted room, naked and bruised and eating bits of a foam mattress.

District Attorney Clark said, "The defendants allegedly kept these little girls in a house of horrors. They illegally occupied an apartment and left the children alone without food or clothing. Fortunately, police rescued the girls, and a nurse discovered signs of abuse for which they are being treated. The situation is beyond the pale."

District Attorney Clark said the defendants, Stephanie Grabowski, 40, and Mark Russell, 45, who were squatters in apartment at 300 East 138th Street, were indicted on two counts of second-degree Kidnapping, two counts of second-degree Unlawful Imprisonment, second-degree Burglary, and two counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child, for conduct that occurred on or about May 3, 2023 in the apartment. Grabowski additionally was indicted on two counts of first-degree Kidnapping for conduct occurring on or about and between, November 14, 2022 through May 3, 2023 at 420 East 169th Street and the 138th Street apartment.

They were arraigned today before Bronx Supreme Court Justice Ralph Fabrizio and bail was continued for Grabowski at \$150,000 cash/\$400,000 bond/\$400,000 partially secured bond at 10%, and for Russell at \$100,000 cash/\$200,000 bond/\$200,000 partially secured bond at 10%. They are due back in court on September 13, 2023.

According to the indictment, on May 3, 2023 at approximately 10:30 a.m., NYPD Officers from PSA 8 and Field Intelligence Detectives were vacating a NYCHA apartment at 300 East 138th Street that was inhabited by known squatters, and upon entry were determined to be Russell and Grabowski. The apartment was in terrible condition with urine and feces about the place and



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there did not appear to be sufficient food, amenities, clothing or clean diapers. The officers observed the doorknob of a bedroom and doorknob of an adjacent closet door tied together with a ropelike cord. They kicked in the bedroom door and found two girls naked and bruised on a filthy spongelike mattress on the floor, and feces, dirty diapers and garbage throughout the room. One officer observed the children to be eating pieces of the mattress.

Officers discovered that Grabowski had a Family Court warrant after absconding from Administration for Children's Services in November 2022, and brought her to Family Court. Orders of Protection were issued at that time. The officers brought the children to the Children's Advocacy Center on May 4, where a nurse examined the children and enhanced the case, and alerted the NYPD Bronx Child Abuse Squad. On May 5, the girls were examined at Jacobi Medical Center, where they were observed to have significant bruising and marks in various stages of healing, rashes throughout their bodies and difficulties walking, standing and speaking.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Camila Sosa and Tiffany Wichman of the Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau, under the supervision of Johanna Hernandez, Deputy Chief of the Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau, Mimi Mairs, Chief of the Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau, and under the overall supervision of Adrienne Giunta, Deputy Chief of Special Victims Division, and Joseph Muroff, Chief of the Special Victims Division.

District Attorney Clark thanked Trial Preparation Assistant Ti-Aana Hylton, BXDA Intelligence Analyst Daniel Walker, and the BXDA Video Unit, for their assistance.

District Attorney Clark thanked NYPD Detectives Johnathon Concepcion and Christina Flores of the Bronx Child Abuse Squad, and NYPD Field Intelligence Officer, Detective Michael Heinz for their work in the investigation.

An indictment is an accusatory instrument and not proof of a defendant's guilt.

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