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For Immediate Release
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**BRONX MOM INDICTED IN MURDER OF 6-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER;
HANGED HER IN CLOSET AND BEAT HER
Victim Was Found Bruised and Malnourished in Filthy Apartment**

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a Bronx woman has been indicted for second-degree Murder and related charges in the brutal, long-term abuse of her six-year-old daughter who was found lifeless in their Bronx apartment.

District Attorney Clark said, “The little girl was allegedly hanged by her wrists and beaten by the defendant with a hard object. For weeks before she succumbed, Jelayah knew only pain and hunger, allegedly committed by her own mother. We will get justice for Jelayah, and are providing services and support to her two siblings who survived a house of horrors.”

District Attorney Clark said Lynija Eason, 27, of 730 East 165th Street, in the Morrisania section of the Bronx was arraigned today on second degree Murder, first-degree Manslaughter, second-degree Manslaughter, and three counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child before Bronx Supreme Court Justice Brenda Rivera. Remand was continued. The defendant is due back in court on June 26, 2024.

According to the investigation, between March 1, and May 26, 2023, the defendant allegedly caused the death of her 6-year-old daughter Jelayah Eason Branch by hanging her by her wrists in a closet of their home and repeatedly striking her with a hard object. On May 26, 2023 the girl’s body was found with new, healing and old bruises, and scars. She had marks on her wrists from restraints and was severely underweight. The NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner ruled the cause of death was Child Abuse Including Restraint (Suspension) Positional Asphyxia, Blunt Force Injuries Of Multiple Ages, And Malnourishment.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Serena Newell, Supervisor in the Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau, with the assistance of Astrid Borgstedt, Trial Counsel in 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 Special Victims Division.



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District Attorney Clark also thanked Trial Preparation Assistant Yolanda Siders-Lewis of the Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau, Homicide Advocate Carina R. Diaz and Advocate Gina Zarate of the Crime Victims Assistance Bureau.

District Attorney Clark thanked NYPD Detectives Frankie Hernandez of the 42 Precinct Squad and Arelis Collazo of Bronx Homicide.

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