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**D.A. BROWN: BRONX MOTHER SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IN PRISON
IN SUFFOCATION DEATH OF TWO-WEEK-OLD SON**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a Bronx mother has been sentenced to 15 years in prison following a guilty plea to manslaughter charges earlier this month stemming from the suffocation death of her two-week-old son. The woman admitted picking up the child from Jacobi Hospital on December 31, 2006, where he had been treated for two weeks after being born prematurely – and suffocating him the same day.

District Attorney Brown said, “An innocent and helpless child was suffocated to death at the hands of the person who should have cared for him most. This inexplicable act must be punished. Today’s sentence provides a measure of justice in this sad and tragic case. ”

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Lucila Rojas, 27, of 2006 Cross Bronx Expressway in the Bronx. The defendant was sentenced today to 15 years in prison by Justice Richard L. Buchter. Earlier this month she pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter.

The District Attorney said that, in pleading guilty, defendant Rojas admitted that on the afternoon of December 31, 2006, she went to Jacobi Hospital, located in the Pelham Parkway section of the Bronx, to pick up her two-week-old son Anthony Rojas, who had been receiving medical treatment relating to his premature birth and that she suffocated him and then disposed of his body in Queens

According to District Attorney Brown, the defendant initially reported her baby missing on January 8, 2007, telling investigators that he had been taken from her at gunpoint while she was traveling to a medical appointment at Jacobi Hospital.

The District Attorney said that an intensive search was conducted by Queens homicide detectives at the Pennsylvania landfill where the Department of Sanitation would have taken trash from the location where the child was allegedly left. Despite efforts to locate the baby’s body it has not been recovered.

The investigation was conducted by Detective Oscar Ferrufino of the NYPD’S Queens Homicide Squad under the supervision of Lieutenant John Perdoch, Detective Carlos Infante of the NYPD’s Bronx Homicide Task Force Police and assisted by Police Officer Christine Nolan of the New York City Police Department’s 115 Precinct Detective Squad under the supervision of Lieutenant Anthony Mattola.

Assistant District Attorney Leigh Bishop of the District Attorney’s Special Victim’s Bureau is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Marjory D. Fisher, Bureau Chief, Kenneth M. Appelbaum and Lucinda C. Suarez, Deputy Chiefs, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Charles A. Testagrossa and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders.

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