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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 14, 2014

**Kings County District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson Announces the
Indictment of Driver in Canarsie Death of 9-Year-Old Girl**

*Defendant Rear-Ended Stopped Vehicle While Fleeing From Police
And Driving With Suspended License*

Brooklyn, NY. Kings County District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson today announced the indictment of Kenneth Palache, 62, on Manslaughter in the Second Degree for rear-ending a vehicle stopped at a red light while fleeing from police, and causing the death of a 9-year-old girl, Rebecca Ramnarine. If convicted, Palache faces 5 to 15 years in prison on the top count.

“The defendant’s decision to drive in such a reckless manner cost an innocent and beautiful young girl her life, and he will be held fully responsible for these crimes,” said District Attorney Ken Thompson.

According to court documents, on May 4, 2014, at approximately 4:40 p.m., police responded to a collision on Foster Avenue and East 87th Street involving a Jeep and Honda minivan, which was driven by the defendant and had run a red light before striking the Jeep. The defendant – who was driving with a suspended license -- then left the scene of the accident, and drove to Remsen Avenue and Avenue L where police officers observed the defendant’s vehicle pull into a bus stop. As officers pulled behind Palache’s car, he allegedly drove away at an excessive rate of speed, striking a Nissan SUV and running through a steady red light without stopping as police pursued him. The defendant continued to flee from police, violently crashed into a Toyota Sienna minivan, and ultimately rear-ended a Hyundai Elantra, which was stopped at a red light on Remsen Avenue and Avenue N.

Rebecca Ramnarine was seated in the rear of the Hyundai Elantra, and was pinned inside the vehicle. The female driver of the Hyundai suffered cranial bleeding, and a fractured pelvis. Her 11-year-old daughter sustained a fractured pelvis as well. The occupants of the Toyota Sienna also suffered numerous injuries, including a passenger who sustained a spinal injury. Emergency personnel removed Rebecca Ramnarine from the vehicle, and she was pronounced dead at a nearby hospital.

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

Defendant Information:
Kenneth Palache

DOB 02/02/52

Charges:

Manslaughter in the Second Degree

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Contact:

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