



## NEWS RELEASE

**Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes**  
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### ARREST MADE IN SHOOTING DEATH OF 5 YEAR OLD

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Paterson, New Jersey

December 21, 2009

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes announced the arrest this afternoon of Jalik Jones, age 23, of 178 Kearney Street, Paterson in connection with the accidental shooting death of 5 year-old Daron Mayes on Sunday evening. Jones has been charged with Reckless Manslaughter, and with a Violation of the Regulatory Provisions concerning the Purchase of Firearms.

It is alleged that Jones illegally purchased a .380 handgun, and kept the loaded weapon in the bedroom that he shared with the 5 year-old victim. On Sunday evening, Daron Mayes and a 6 year-old relative were watching T.V. and playing in that bedroom when they came upon the handgun. The weapon discharged, striking Daron once in the back of his head. The child succumbed to the resulting injuries at St. Joseph's Hospital in Paterson. Jalik Jones was not present within the home at the time of the incident.

Reckless manslaughter is a second degree crime and carries with it a potential sentence of up to ten years in State prison. The associated weapons offense carries a potential additional prison term of 18 months. Bail has been set at \$200,000.00 with no 10 % option. It is anticipated that Jones' first appearance before a Superior Court Judge will be held later this week. This case is being prosecuted by Chief Assistant Prosecutor John F. Latoracca.

A criminal complaint is merely an accusation. Despite this accusation, the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.