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JOINT NEWS RELEASE

May 15, 2012

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MONTOYA GIVEN LIFE IN PRISON FOR 2007 DEATH OF TODDLER

The man convicted of the 2007 death of 3-year-old Neveah Gallegos has been sentenced to life in prison without parole today in Denver District Court.

Angel Ray Montoya (dob: 01-19-85) was found guilty of *first-degree murder* (F1), *child abuse resulting in death* (F2) and *abuse of a corpse* (M) by a Denver jury last week. He was given a mandatory life term for the first-degree murder count, 48 years for the child abuse resulting in death count, and 12 months for abuse of a corpse, but the sentences were ordered to run concurrent with the life term.

Neveah's body was found in a ravine in Lakewood Dry Gulch in the 1100 block of Perry Street in September 2007. Montoya and Neveah's mother, Miriam Gallegos, were arrested in connection with Neveah's death at the time, but were later released pending further investigation. The case was later presented to a Grand Jury and indictments were returned against both Montoya and Gallegos.

Miriam Gallegos (dob: 04-25-87) pleaded guilty to child abuse resulting in death (F2) and is now serving a 12-year sentence in the Colorado Department of Corrections.

The case was prosecuted by Chief Deputy DA Michelle Amico and Chief Deputy DA Christine Washburn. Amico addressed the Court at today's hearing and outlined the long, challenging course this case has taken. She also noted that she was one of hundreds of people who originally volunteered to help search for the little girl when the Denver Police Department and the Denver District Attorney asked for people to help look for her. Neveah's grandmother and great-aunt also spoke.

Montoya declined to make a statement, but his attorney told the Court of her intention to appeal the conviction saying Montoya was innocent.