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**For Immediate Release: Man Sentenced to 45 Years in Prison for Murder of Nine-Year-Old Brandoniya Bennett**

(DALLAS) – Dallas County Criminal District Attorney John Creuzot is pleased to announce a Dallas County jury has sentenced Davonte Benton, 22, to 45 years in prison for the murder of nine-year-old Brandoniya Bennett.

On August 14, 2019, Brandoniya Bennett was gearing up for the start of her fourth-grade year when she was gunned down in her townhome in Old East Dallas. Davonte Benton, then 19, was part of a group involved in a fight next door. The fight broke up, but he and another man ran around to the back and fired several gunshots into the wrong unit. One of those bullets struck Brandoniya Bennett in the head, killing her almost instantly.

“The murder of this child remains a senseless and unimaginable tragedy. While nothing can bring Brandoniya back, I am thankful we are able to send the message that this kind of violence will not be tolerated in Dallas County,” said District Attorney John Creuzot.

A Dallas County jury found Benton guilty of murder on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. They returned the following Monday to assess a punishment of 45 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Lead Prosecutor Christine Harris said, “We are thankful to the members of our Dallas County community who served as jurors and ultimately came to a just verdict in this case. It is my hope that the verdict will help bring some peace to sweet Brandoniya’s family, who showed incredible grace and strength through the trial.”

Thank you to ADAs Christine Harris and Stephanie Fargo, Victim Advocate Sandra Walker, and the Dallas Police Department. Successful prosecution of this case would also not have been possible without the tireless work of investigator Senior Sgt. Dan Andrews.

We thank the jury members for their time, attention, and service throughout this trial.