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PRESS RELEASE

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D.A. McMahon: Staten Island Man Indicted for Torturing Cat

Tyrike Richardson allegedly abused a cat and livestreamed the incident on Facebook

Staten Island, N.Y. – Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon today announced that **Tyrike Richardson** has been indicted on charges including Aggravated Cruelty to Animals, Torturing and Injuring Animals, and Abandonment of Animals for allegedly abusing a cat and then leaving the injured animal in a trash can on the street.

“Animal cruelty is an unacceptable crime and my office will continue to vigorously prosecute those who do harm to defenseless creatures,” said **District Attorney Michael E. McMahon**.

According to an indictment and documents filed in court, on or about June 29, 2017, inside 24 Arthur Avenue, the defendant allegedly struck his neighbor’s cat, named Chester, multiple times in the head, body, and face using a stick and a knife. The defendant also allegedly threw a chair onto Chester’s body. He then placed Chester into a trash can, leaving the injured animal outside to die. Officers from the NYPD’s Staten Island Gang Squad recovered Chester from the trash can and later arrested **Richardson**. The alleged torture was livestreamed on Facebook by the defendant.

An ASPCA veterinarian examined Chester and observed Chester to have suffered serious physical injuries, including blunt force trauma, pneumothorax (air leaking out of the injured lung and into the chest cavity around the lungs), left side rib fractures, contusions on the ear, bloody nose, blood in the urine, broken teeth, tongue abrasions, liver and kidney injuries, head trauma, and severe muscle injury. Chester is currently being cared for at an ASPCA facility.

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Richardson was arraigned today in Richmond County State Supreme Court, St. George, before Judge Stephen Rooney. Bail remains set at \$50,000.

The case is being prosecuted by ADA Jane Grinberg, Chief of the Animal Cruelty Prosecution Unit.

The charges contained in the attached indictment are merely allegations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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