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**District Attorney Reunites Mom and Missing Son**

(Houston, Tx) – An investigation by the Harris County District Attorney’s Office has located a Houston boy abducted nearly four years ago and returned him to his mother, District Attorney Patricia Lykos announced Wednesday.

Lorena Perez had last hugged her son Isaiah, now 5, just before he disappeared in July 2006. They were able to embrace again for the first time when District Attorney’s investigators and prosecutors reunited them on June 4. The boy’s father Joseph Vaquera took the child without permission from Ms. Perez in 2006, but since no custody orders were in place, he could not be charged with a criminal offense.

Perez turned to the District Attorney’s Family Criminal Law Division (FCLD) for help in her search for the child. Prosecutor Beth Barron and Investigator Benjamin Cowey were able to locate the child through a Facebook posting. Albina Salazar, the new wife of Vaquera, recognized the photo of the boy and contacted authorities.

FCLD Chief Jane Waters credited Barron and Cowey for their work that led to the return of the boy. “Children should not be used as pawns in domestic disputes,” Waters said. “We need to protect children, and sometimes to do that, a criminal charge needs to be filed.”

Barron said that she knew the work had been worth it when she witnessed the emotional reunion for Perez and her son. “Things like this make being a prosecutor so rewarding,” Barron said.

District Attorney Lykos has made the protection of the young and the elderly a high priority. She has expanded the Crimes Against Children Division and created a section for the Protection of the Elderly and Disabled.

“The true measure of a society can be determined by how the people treat the most vulnerable members,” Lykos said. “If you injure a child or an elderly individual in Harris County, we will prosecute you to the fullest extent of the law.”

In the Perez case, Grandmother Isabel Vaquera, 54, has been charged with kidnapping and tampering with governmental records due to her unwillingness to return the child when ordered to do so and falsifying the boy’s birth certificate to enroll him in school. Each felony charge exposes her up to ten years in prison if convicted. (END)