

## **Romulus woman to be tried in death of boyfriend's infant daughter**

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By Christine Ferretti

The Detroit News

**ROMULUS** — A 27-year-old woman facing murder and child abuse charges in the death of her boyfriend's infant daughter will head to trial, a judge ruled Wednesday.

After nearly three hours of testimony, 34th District Court Judge Brian A. Oakley ruled there was enough evidence for LaTonya Goodlow to be bound over to Wayne County Circuit Court on one count of first-degree murder, first-degree child abuse and involuntary manslaughter in the death of 11-month-old **Kalijah Arlboro** .

Det. Josh Monte testified Goodlow gave three stories about what happened before indicating the infant hit her head against the couch and fell to the floor Aug. 13.

**Kalijah** died from brain trauma at C.S. Mott Hospital in Ann Arbor the next day.

Monte said Goodlow told him the child fell off the couch while playing. She picked her up, rubbed her face and "shook her, not hard," he said.

She then laid her down and took a nap on a nearby couch for about an hour. When she woke up the baby's "lips were purple and head was cool," he said, referencing Goodlow's written statement.

Monte testified Goodlow said she lied at first about what happened because she was fearful of her boyfriend's family and didn't want to let him down.

Defense attorney Susan Rock said her client cared for the child when the infant visited her biological father, William Melchor. Rock questioned the statements obtained by police, claiming Goodlow may not have had adequate sleep or nourishment during the questioning that occurred over a two-day period, while she was held in the city jail.

Jeffrey Jentzen, a medical examiner who conducted **Kalijah** 's autopsy, said the baby suffered a contusion to her forehead and hemorrhaging in the brain, eyes and under each armpit — consistent with non-accidental shaking and blunt force trauma.

Police allege Goodlow's boyfriend left her with the child around 11:30 a.m. Aug. 13. Within about an hour she called him, claiming the child was unresponsive following a nap.

Rock questioned the child's mother, Toy Lewis, about discipline for the child, if she ever called her names and an iron supplement she was giving the baby.

Toy Lewis told The Detroit News Wednesday she had never met Goodlow, but had spoken to her before on the phone.

"I don't know why she hurt my daughter," said Lewis, who works as a nurse for Oakwood Hospital

"I hope she spends the rest of her life in jail."

Goodlow's mother Lisa Williams said her daughter is a loving, caring person.

"She's not a violent person," she said. "She had no motive to harm the baby."

Oakley set an Oct. 8 arraignment in Wayne County Circuit Court.

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