



I. **DATE AND TIME** April 21, 2010 @ 9:00 a.m.

II. **TYPE OF INCIDENT/SITUATION/ANNOUNCEMENT:**

The Livermore Police Department announces the arrest of Jessica Adams for the murder of her two month old baby, Gary Sterling.

III. **FACTUAL INFORMATION:**

On March 19, 2009, at about 5:00 a.m., Livermore police officers and medical personnel responded to a residence in the 1900 block of Spruce Street for an unresponsive two month old baby, Gary Sterling. Sterling's mother, Jessica Adams, told responding officers that she had accidentally suffocated him while sleeping.

Sterling was transported to Valley Care Hospital in Pleasanton where he was pronounced deceased.

Detectives conducted a lengthy investigation into the circumstances surrounding Sterling's death. Detectives learned the following information which led them to the belief that Adams caused Sterling's death due to her deliberate and conscious disregard for his life:

Adams is a long time abuser of methamphetamine, with numerous arrests for drug related charges. She has been through numerous drug rehabilitation facilities, where she learned the dangers of using of methamphetamine.

Adams has two other children, currently ages three and five. Both of these children had methamphetamine in their system when born. Due to Adams' using methamphetamine while she was pregnant, they were removed from her custody by Child Protective Services.

On March 12, 2009, Adams made plans to use methamphetamine in celebration of her upcoming birthday on March 15<sup>th</sup>. In preparation for using methamphetamine, Adams stated that on March 12<sup>th</sup>, she stopped breastfeeding Sterling.

On March 13, 2009, Adams traveled with Sterling to a residence in Richmond, California. Adams stated that while at the Richmond residence, she continually smoked methamphetamine from March 15, 2009 until March 18, 2009. During this four day methamphetamine use, Sterling remained in Adams' custody. According to Adams, she did not sleep while using methamphetamine.

During the afternoon of March 18, 2009, Adams returned to her Livermore residence. According to witness statements, Adams was under the influence and unable to care for her safety or the safety of Sterling. Although Adams was presented with opportunities to have someone else care for Sterling, she continued to keep him in her custody.

In the early morning of March 19, 2009, Adams was with Sterling on a couch inside their

residence. While on the couch, Adams fell asleep for the first time since beginning her methamphetamine use four days earlier. While sleeping, Adams rolled on top of Sterling, smothering him to death.

Investigators concluded that when Adams used methamphetamine for four consecutive days and refused to sleep, she knew she was incapable of safely caring for Sterling. Although she was aware of the dangers of caring for Sterling while under the influence of methamphetamine, she did not make arrangements for others to care for him, in conscious disregard for his life.

On April 19, 2010, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office reviewed this case and charged Adams for the homicide committed against Sterling. On April 20, 2010, at approximately 1:30 p.m., detectives arrested Adams without incident in the 1300 block of Ora Avenue in Livermore.

**IIV. SUSPECT:**

Jessica Adams  
DOB: 03/15/1985



Photo of Jessica Adams

**V. CASE NUMBER:** 09-001996  
**CONTACT PERSON:** Lieutenant Ava Garavatti or Sergeant Mayer  
**PHONE NUMBER:** (925) 371-4730 (925) 371-4733

Should you require further information please call the contact person designated in this press release. If the contact person is not available, and you have a deadline, please call the on duty Watch Commander at (925) 371-4820.

Steve Sweeney  
Chief of Police