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On Tuesday, July 16, 29-year-old Althea Johnson entered a plea of guilty to the offense of Abandoning/Endangering a Child, a State Jail Felony with a punishment range of 180 days to two years in jail. Johnson stood accused of abandoning her newborn baby in a dumpster in 2017. She was eligible for community supervision probation, and Judge Brad Urrutia sentenced her, as part of a negotiated plea, to five years probation.

The trial occurred in April 2019, but Judge Urrutia granted a mistrial after the jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict. Jurors in that trial stated that they believed Johnson was involved, but they did not feel there was sufficient evidence found at the scene to establish who had physically put the baby in the dumpster.

Jurors also indicated that if they had reached a unanimous verdict of guilty, they would have sentenced Johnson to probation. As part of her probation, Johnson will receive psychological support and counseling services, which was also something the original jurors had wanted in place.

The baby has fully recovered and is in the custody of family.

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