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NEWS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: **Monday, May 4, 2015, 1:00 p.m.**

From: **Alex Gardner, District Attorney**

Details: On February 22, 2015, at 4:51 PM, police and fire/rescue were called to intersection of Main Street and 54th Street in Springfield for a collision involving a vehicle and multiple pedestrians. Upon arrival, emergency personnel found that pedestrians Tyler Hudson, age 4, McKenzie Hudson, age 5, and John Day, age 8, were deceased. Their mother, Cortney Hudson-Crawford, age 26, was in critical condition and transported to Sacred Heart Medical Center.

The Springfield Police Department, with the assistance of the Eugene Police Department's Major Crash Investigation Unit, immediately began investigating the cause of the collision. That evening, Larry LaThorpe, age 68, voluntarily consented to examinations of his physical and mental faculties, breath, blood and urine to determine whether he was under the influence of intoxicants at the time of the event. There was no evidence of intoxication of any kind.

Springfield Police Department interviewed more than a dozen witnesses, performed a mechanical inspection of LaThorpe's vehicle, collected video surveillance from area businesses, analyzed medical records for both Hudson-Crawford and LaThorpe, examined LaThorpe's employment records, conducted speed and sunlight experiments, examined LaThorpe's cellular phone, and had the traffic light systems examined. Based on the totality of the investigation, the Springfield Police Department and District Attorney's Office have concluded that Larry LaThorpe was traveling eastbound on Main Street, at or around the posted speed limit, when he unwittingly ran a red light at 54th Street. At that time, Cortney Hudson-Crawford was walking her three children in the west crosswalk southbound on Main Street. Tragically, by the time LaThorpe and Hudson-Crawford recognized the other's presence it was too late. Cortney Hudson-Crawford and her children were struck by LaThorpe's vehicle. LaThorpe remained on the scene and voluntarily complied with the investigation.

Oregon courts have held that "mere inadvertence, brief inattention, or errors in judgment" are not sufficient to charge a person with criminal homicide. In order for the State to prosecute a person for criminally negligent homicide a prosecutor must prove, at a minimum, "that the defendant *should have been aware* of a problem with the defendant's driving, such as swerving, inattention, or near collisions, before the ultimate accident giving rise to the charges." Because the investigation yielded no such evidence, criminal charges will not be filed against Larry LaThorpe for his role in the fatal crash on February 22, 2015.

The District Attorney's Office and Springfield Police Department share in the community sorrow for the tragic loss of life.