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## NEWS RELEASE

**Date/Time of Release:** March 26, 2020  
**From:** Patty Perlow, Lane County District Attorney  
**RE:** Officer Involved Shooting, March 14, 2020

On March 14, 2020 at 3:45 p.m., an officer with the Springfield Police Department was involved in a shooting. The shooting occurred in the Best Buy parking lot in Springfield at 3300 Gateway Street. Chase Eldon Brooks, age 32, charged Officer Eric Pardee with a tire iron in his hand. Officer Pardee discharged his firearm at Brooks striking him three times. Brooks died on scene as a result of his injuries. The Lane County Inter-Agency Deadly Force Investigation Team investigated the shooting. The agencies involved in the investigation include the Oregon State Police, Lane County Sheriff's Office, Eugene Police Department, Springfield Police Department, the Lane County District Attorney's office, and the Lane County Medical Examiner's office.

On March 14, 2020 at 3:36 p.m., several 911 calls came in reporting a man in the Best Buy parking lot damaging a vehicle. The reports described a male subject ripping apart the windshield of a vehicle, jumping on top of the vehicle, had a tire iron in his hand, and was yelling at people. A witness captured some of this behavior in a video he took with his cell phone.

At 3:37 p.m., Officer Eric Pardee and Officer Anthony DelCastillo with the Springfield Police Department were dispatched to the call. On the way to the incident additional information was provided by 911 callers, describing how the subject had a crowbar in his hand and he was running toward the front of the store. Next, reports came in that subject was confronting someone in a silver Honda. The driver of the silver Honda had caught the attention of Brooks when he stopped in the parking lot and was taking cell phone video of Brooks destroying the vehicle. Brooks engaged the witness orally and the witness stopped filming.

After being confronted, the witness repositioned his vehicle in the parking lot. Security footage from the Best Buy security cameras shows that as the witness repositioned his vehicle in the parking lot, Brooks chased after him with the tire iron in his hand. It was this action by Brooks which prompted the additional call to 911 describing Brooks running toward the front of the store with the tire iron.

Once repositioned, the witness was confronted by Brooks at his car window. Brooks reached through the open car window and tried to reach for the witness. Brooks was also angrily yelling at him. The witness called 911. While the witness was on the phone with 911, Brooks continued to confront him and threatened him with the tire iron.

Brooks walked out from between the cars into the aisle. At the same time, Officer Pardee arrived on scene and saw Brooks. Brooks turned to a woman in the parking lot, and said to her, "Are you ready to see someone get shot by the cops?"

Brooks then turned toward the first arriving officer, Officer Eric Pardee, and charged toward him as he was raising his right hand with a tire iron in it. Officer Pardee began challenging Brooks with his firearm pointed at him and gave him commands to stop. Brooks continued to advance on Officer Pardee in an aggressive manner. Officer Pardee discharged his firearm three times striking Brooks in the chest. Brooks stopped advancing, turned and hunched over before running away to the south. Brooks got to the front of another vehicle and got down on his knees then fell to the ground. Officer Pardee and Officer DelCastillo put Brooks in handcuffs and a recovery position.

Officer Pardee said that when he first saw the subject with the tire iron he stopped his patrol car. He tried to maintain space and distance to hopefully gain compliance and de-escalate the situation. Immediately, the subject turned to face Officer Pardee and moved to attack him. The subject immediately raised the tire iron and charged at him really fast. Officer Pardee had his firearm out and pointed it at the subject. Officer Pardee yelled loudly commands for the subject to stop and drop it. There was no compliance from the subject. The anger he was projecting was still present and he was still advancing on Officer Pardee.

When the subject reached a certain point Officer Pardee fired what he believed to be three times and his point of aim was at the subject's upper chest. It was a really busy place on a Saturday afternoon with people and vehicles and Officer Pardee knew he couldn't miss. He had an intense focus on making sure his rounds were right in the right place. The subject's pace toward him slowed and he veered off to the right. Officer Pardee stopped firing because he got a reaction out of the subject. The direct immediate threat was not the same as when he made the decision to fire.

Prior to firing his weapon, Officer Pardee believed the subject was going to attack him with the tire iron and as a result of the attack he would be seriously injured or killed; most likely killed. Officer Pardee was forced to defend himself and the only way he could defend himself at that point was to use his firearm. Other witnesses at the scene confirmed Officer Pardee's perception.

IDFIT investigator's spoke to the many witnesses who were in the parking lot at the time of the incident. One of the witnesses said she was in the parking lot near Brooks when the incident occurred. She described Brooks as having a crazed look about him and she felt like he was going to hurt someone. She said the officers did everything

right, there was nothing else they could have done. Other witnesses agreed.

Evidence was gathered at the scene and the scene was documented with a 3D scan by EPD investigators. (3D Scan)

At the post-mortem exam Dr. Davis, the State Medical Examiner forensic pathologist, ruled Brooks' death to be homicide by gunshot wound. There were two spent bullet rounds in Brooks. One round went through the heart and one went through a lung. Dr. Davis said based on the damage to the heart, Brooks would have had 20-30 second before he would have lost consciousness due to lack of blood pressure. The preliminary toxicology screening showed Brooks to be under the influence of methamphetamine at the time of the incident. Additionally, a small glass pipe with residue was found to be in Brooks' pant leg.

Based upon the above, I have determined that the use of deadly force by Springfield Officer Eric Pardee was a lawful use of force. Officer Pardee took all available precautions to de-escalate this situation from turning off his lights and siren as he approached the Best Buy parking lot, to his efforts to maintain a safe distance from Brooks to make an initial contact. The speed and determination of Mr. Brooks to come at Officer Pardee with a weapon left Officer Pardee with no choice but to end the situation as quickly and safely as possible for himself and the many other people in the area.

Officer Pardee has been with the Springfield Police Department for over 18 years. His duty weapon was a Smith and Wesson .40 caliber handgun. The magazine carried 15 rounds and he had one in the chamber for a total of 16 rounds at the time of the shooting. Officer Pardee is a member of the SPD SWAT team and is a Field Training Officer.

I want to thank the members of IDFIT who, once again, dedicated all resources to this investigation to get it to a thorough conclusion so quickly. Copies of the video captured by Best Buy and the 911 call from the witness who was confronted will be available today by disk that can be picked up from my office. The files are too large to send electronically. I will be available to answer questions in a manner that provides for safe social distancing, either by phone or video chat.