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RELEASE

RE: TROOPER ROBERT HIGBEE

THIS WAS A VERY TRAGIC AND UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEATHS OF TWO YOUNG GIRLS. TRYING TO CRIMINALIZE AN ACCIDENT THAT OCCURRED IN THE COURSE OF STATE TROOPER HIGBEE'S DUTIES IS A FURTHER TRAGEDY AND AN INJUSTICE. WE CONCUR WITH THE PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE STFA. TROOPER HIGBEE IS NOT GUILTY OF ANY CRIMINAL WRONGDOING AND THIS MATTER DOES NOT BELONG IN A CRIMINAL COURT.

RECKLESSNESS IN A CRIMINAL CONTEXT, UNLIKE NEGLIGENCE, REQUIRES A CONSCIOUS CHOICE OF A COURSE OF ACTION WITH KNOWLEDGE OR REASON TO KNOW THAT SUCH CONDUCT CREATES A SERIOUS DANGER TO OTHERS. IN NO WAY WAS RECKLESS CONDUCT PRESENT IN THIS ACCIDENT.

THERE WAS NEVER ANY INTENTION NOR ANY CONSCIOUS, DELIBERATE ACT ON THE PART OF TROOPER HIGBEE. HE NEVER DELIBERATELY DISREGARDED OR ENDANGERED A HUMAN LIFE. HE WAS DOING HIS SWORN DUTY, ATTEMPTING TO CLOSE THE DISTANCE BETWEEN HIS TROOP CAR AND A VIOLATOR OF THE LAW.

SIMPLY STATED, THIS CASE BELONGS IN AN ADMINISTRATIVE AND/OR CIVIL COURT. THE CONDUCT AT ISSUE CONCERNS WHETHER OR NOT THE TROOPER'S ACTIONS WERE NEGLIGENT. THIS WAS NOT CRIMINAL RECKLESS CONDUCT BECAUSE TROOPER HIGBEE WAS JUSTIFIED IN AND REQUIRED TO DO HIS DUTY IN ATTEMPTING TO APPREHEND A VIOLATOR. TROOPER HIGBEE WISHES TO EXPRESS HIS DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF THE BECKER CHILDREN, BUT THE PEOPLE OF THIS AREA SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT IN THIS INSTANCE, NEGLIGENCE OR MAKING A MISTAKE, IS A CIVIL ACTION. TROOPER HIGBEE IS INNOCENT OF ANY CRIMINAL ACT.

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