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NEWS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release:

From: Patricia W. Perlow, District Attorney

RE: LCSO Officer Involved Shooting 4/6/23, Fisher Rd.

Detail (Summary is at the end):

On April 6, 2023, just before midnight, the daughter of Verlin Vanhoy called 911 to request an ambulance to transport Mr. Vanhoy to the hospital for a medical condition. The daughter reported that Mr. Vanhoy had called her asking her to drive him to the hospital or call an ambulance. She said he was drunk and could be combative when drunk and that he had been delusional recently. She advised that having the deputies on scene might make him more combative. The calls to Central 911 and LCSO dispatch are recorded.

LCSO dispatch was advised that EMTs would not respond to the residence until LCSO did. LCSO dispatch called Mr. Vanhoy to let him know that deputies would be arriving first to make sure it was safe for EMTs to arrive. It is apparent from the recorded call that Mr. Vanhoy was extremely intoxicated with slurred speech. He told LCSO dispatch, "I don't need you people." The dispatcher told Mr. Vanhoy that they needed to make sure it was safe for the medics to come in and get him to the hospital. Mr. Vanhoy said, "I do have weapons sitting here, not going to use them, I might use them on me, not on them. I'm old and dying. I want to be put down like a horse. I'm old and I'm drunk and tired and I've got a lot of problems. Just put me down. Give me something. Alright, I do have weapons sitting here but they're all right here on the...All right bye...Oh God..."

LCSO dispatch contacted the two deputies who were heading to the call. They were told the call taker had spoken with Verlin, that he was "profoundly intoxicated," and not receptive to law enforcement.

Deputies Taylor Trimboli and Conner Santini, in separate vehicles responded to the call. Just after midnight, Deputy Trimboli called Mr. Vanhoy's daughter directly and was told that he may have a pellet gun, but she was unsure about any weapons. Deputy Trimboli contacted Mr. Vanhoy's daughter a second time by phone and asked if she would accompany them to the call. She declined. Deputy Trimboli contacted Mr. Vanhoy's daughter a third time for directions to the correct location on the property. Mr. Vanhoy lived in a trailer near his

daughter's home. These calls were cell phone to cell phone and not recorded. Trimboli and Mr. Vanhoy's daughter both described the calls in subsequent interviews.

At 00:18 Verlin Vanhoy texted his daughter a photo of the pellet gun with the words, "I'm thinking this will freek (sic) them out." Daughter responded "They are here dad". She received the words contemporaneously but she did not see the photo until after the incident. Per the daughter, Mr. Vanhoy had poor cell coverage in his trailer and could only message from one spot.

Deputies Trimboli and Santini arrived at Mr. Vanhoy's trailer at approximately eighteen minutes past midnight. At just before 20 minutes past midnight, Deputy Santini radioed that it was "Code 4 for medics" meaning the EMTs were clear to come in. About 30 seconds later, Deputy Trimboli radioed that they were not code 4 for medics, "Verlin has a pellet gun." Deputy Santini could be heard over the radio giving loud commands "Don't touch it."

At 00:20:34 dispatch asked if they "need additional" but received no response.

At 00:22:16, someone called "shots fired, shots fired" on the radio.

00:24: 31, dispatch confirmed medics were staged in the area, waiting for code 4.

00:26:01, Deputy Santini radioed that CPR was in progress.

00:26:45, dispatch was advised that the scene was clear for medics.

00:30:34, EMTs arrived.

Verlin Vanhoy was pronounced deceased at 00:46 a.m.

At 01:10, the Inter-agency Deadly Force Investigative Team (IDFIT) was called to the scene. OSP Sergeant Fisher was supervisor, EPD Detective Trevor Hart was assigned to lead the investigation, detectives from Springfield Police assisted along with OSP and EPD detectives. In the early morning hours of 4/7/23, detectives were given their assignments. The Eugene Police Department Forensic Evidence Unit processed the scene. OSP, EPD and SPD detectives talked with witnesses at the location and canvassed the nearby area.

Detectives learned that Mr. Vanhoy's daughter had a Ring camera at her house. There are two video clips captured during this incident.

The first video clip started at 0021:03, daughter leaving the house, putting on shoes in a covered porch area.

00:21:06 – daughter yells, "Dad" and moves quickly toward Mr. Vanhoy's trailer. She continued to yell, "Dad, no!"

00:21:11 – a male’s voice is heard say, “No, I want to help you, I want to get medics in here, show me your fucking hands, show me your fucking hands please...” Daughter is heard yelling, “Wait, wait, wait, wait” before the video ended at 00:21:16.

00:23:07, A second video clip shows daughter enter the porch from the south (direction of the trailer). She said, “They shot him.” Her husband asked, “Did they kill him?” Daughter responded, “I don’t know, they won’t let me in. I begged them to let me please go in there to take the gun for them from him, he wouldn’t. He stood up and came at them with the gun pointed at them.” Husband responded, “It’s a fucking pellet gun.” Daughter responded, “I told them that and they wouldn’t let me go.” Daughter walks toward the end of the porch and the video stopped at 00:23:28.

On 4/7/2023 at 02:53:18 at LCSO, Deputy Trimboli gave a brief, recorded statement indicating he could not see past Deputy Santini but that Deputy Santini repeated, “Drop the gun, show me your hands, nothing in them, drop the gun, over and over and over and he started retreating and I backed up and he was still saying it and that was the extent.”

On 4/10/23 a follow up interview was conducted with the daughter. She said she ran to the trailer begging them to let her diffuse the situation with her father. When she arrived, one officer was standing up against the trailer at the bottom of the stairs. She said he had no line of sight into the house from there. The other officer was standing at the door with his foot holding the door open and her dad was sitting on the couch. She could see something in his hand. She said the object in his hand appeared to be cradled like you would hold a phone. She said, “He did have something in his hand. I can’t honestly tell you if it was the gun or not. I’m as, I guess I’m assuming it is because the officer was telling him to put something down.”

Mr. Vanhoy’s daughter said when she saw her dad holding the object, she tried to go up the stairs. She said, “please let me in there. Let me just show you that it’s a fake gun. It’s a broken pellet gun, just, you know, let me just show you. Please, please. And I just kept begging and begging and begging. And then I turned to the other officer, and I just looked at him and I’m like, it’s a fake gun. So, I started screaming it louder and louder. And that’s when he said to the other officer, she’s saying it’s a fake. He then says, shut the fuck up and get her out of here. So the other one kind of pushes me back. And at that point I could not see in the house anymore.” She said she turned away and covered her ears.

She added, “And he (the deputy at the door) started screaming louder and louder. Okay. And you could hear him getting scared and like shaky. And he started screaming and I plugged my ears and I turned around because the fear in his voice, like you could see he was scared. Which I could see his legs shaking when I was standing at the stairs. I mean, he was scared cuz I seen straight in there. So here’s his legs, here’s my dad. I could see him on the couch. Not one time did I see my dad stand up. Clearly he had to of, because here’s his couch. If he stood up and it takes him a minute to stand up. Ok. He’s drunk. He either took a step forward or fell forward where he shot him and where he landed. There’s no way he charged him because here he is, here he falls, he’s five four, five foot four. There’s the door. I mean, his trailer is what, from here to that? I mean, it’s a single by trailer. Yeah. Where his couch

is just there's no way he charged him and saying, you, they're saying he's combative. I didn't even hear him speak. That's the thing that is crazy to me, is I never even heard a word coming out of his mouth. Like you said before, you how things kind of just tunnel. Maybe I was just so focused on the officer and, you know, my screaming that I didn't hear him speak, but I just can't even tell you that I even heard him talk. And that's the thing that's frustrating for me is like, well if he wasn't even talking. How is he trying to attack you?

The daughter said she couldn't hear any words from her father, outside of the trailer at the bottom of the stairs. When asked if she recalled what the officer was saying, she said, "Verlin, I am trying to help you."

Mr. Vanhoy's son-in-law was present at his house when the incident occurred. He was in bed when his wife called for an ambulance the first time. He observed deputies arrive in the driveway and watched the incident from his living room window. He said he opened the window and could hear the deputies announce themselves and then watched the deputies pull their weapons. He told his wife this and she took off outside. He said he could hear his wife yelling that the gun was fake and could hear a male voice reiterated it was a fake gun. He said his wife said the gun was fake four or five times. He watched the deputy stop his wife from advancing up the stairs prior to the shot. He called the interviewing officer on 4/13/23 to advise he recalled something else from the night of the incident. He said he remembered hearing the officer at the door yelling, "Don't get up, I said don't fucking get up."

The EMTs present were interviewed by Springfield detectives. They all described the call, what they knew arriving to stage, the code 4, the canceled code 4, shots fired. One of the EMTs described arriving to the scene after the second code 4, but that it hadn't been cleared yet to determine if there were any other people in the trailer. They all confirmed that a deputy was providing CPR when they arrived, that someone had applied a chest seal, that the area was small and required moving Mr. Vanhoy and his furniture. They all three also observed what they believed to be a black firearm on the ground with a deputy standing over it. After they ended patient care, they packed up and left the scene.

Deputy Taylor Trimboli was interviewed on April 10, 2023 by OSP Sgt. Erik Fisher. He was asked the questions from the IDFIT checklist, beginning with preliminary questions. Regarding the incident, he said in substance that he and Deputy Santini were sitting in their patrol vehicles near the office on Oak Street in Eugene when they were both dispatched to a call. Deputy Trimboli had a citizen rider who left his vehicle at that time. Medics had been requested who requested that the sheriff's office respond to an intoxicated male who needed to go to the hospital. He was about 66 years old and they were provided a description of his medical condition. He reportedly could become aggressive when intoxicated, which is why EMTs requested law enforcement go out first. Deputies were to make sure it was safe and then have EMTs go in and transport the man.

Deputies Trimboli and Santini went to the call in separate vehicles. Deputy Trimboli called the daughter to get more information. Daughter told Deputy Trimboli that her father had grown more delusional. Dispatch had called Mr. Vanhoy and let deputies know he wasn't very cooperative with the call, so he called the daughter. She told Deputy Trimboli that her

dad was very intoxicated, his mental and physical health were declining, he wanted to go to the hospital and would not drive himself due to his intoxicated state, so she called medics.

Deputy Trimboli called the daughter a second time to ask if she would go to the scene with them to let her dad know he was not in any trouble, that they just want to help. She declined because her dad would not want her to see him in that state. He asked about weapons and she said not that she knew of, kitchen knives and maybe a pellet gun.

The deputies drove to the wrong location on the property so Deputy Trimboli called the daughter a third time to confirm where they were supposed to be. They parked in front of the trailer allowing space for the ambulance to get in.

The trailer had a porch in front with steps leading up to it. The porch was blocked with items so that the two of them could not stand on it at the same time. There was a storm door at the entrance that was opened out and stuck at about 90 degrees. Deputy Santini knocked and said it was the Sheriff's Office. There was a voice from inside that yelled out asking who it was. Deputy Santini announced again it was the Sheriff's office and they were there to get him some help, that they wanted to get him the medics and to the hospital. The voice inside said to come in. Deputy Santini opened the door and contacted a man sitting on a couch. Deputy Trimboli had stepped off the porch but could see inside the door which Deputy Santini had pushed open but kept falling toward closed. Deputy Santini put his foot on the door to keep it open. Deputy Santini stepped into the residence. Deputy Trimboli stepped onto the porch but could not see past Deputy Santini to the inside. Deputy Santini said they were "code 4 for medics." Deputy Trimboli turned to his left shoulder to use his radio and said, "We're code 4 for medics." Right after using the radio, Deputy Trimboli saw Deputy Santini had his gun drawn and "talk in a way that I've never heard him talk. Um, he was very loud, very, uh, very direct, and it was very, it was a different voice than I had ever heard come out of him before." Deputy Santini was giving orders saying, "Show me your hands, um, show me your hands, don't move." Deputy Trimboli radioed that it was "not code 4 for medics." Deputy Santini said to "Drop the gun." Deputy Trimboli was trying to get on the radio to say "he's got a gun, not code 4 for medics," but it wasn't transmitting. Deputy Trimboli drew his firearm and saw Deputy Santini take a step back. Deputy Trimboli heard the man inside say "You're going to have to end me."

Deputy Trimboli heard the man say "no" to Deputy Santini a number of times. Deputy Trimboli had to step off the porch because there wasn't room for both of them. Deputy Trimboli stepped onto the grass and could see the man still on the couch. He could no longer hear what the man inside was saying from his position. At that time he could hear someone yelling behind him that it was "just a pellet gun." Deputy Trimboli was still trying to get information out on the radio. The woman, who he later learned was the man's daughter, asked to go talk to the man. Deputy Santini was still yelling and Deputy Trimboli believed that was what brought her out. Deputy Santini said, "We're in a really bad situation" and kept telling him to "drop the gun, drop the gun." The voice behind Deputy Trimboli was getting louder, and he turned to keep her back. She was yelling that it was a pellet gun. He didn't know who she was. Deputy Trimboli tried to get out on the radio that it might be a pellet gun. He did not know if the radio transmission went through or what Deputy Santini

heard or was aware of. Deputy Santini was still yelling for the man to drop the gun. The yelling from both Deputy Santini and the woman got louder. Deputy Trimboli could not see in the residence. Deputy Trimboli said he felt “helpless” between the woman screaming and trying to keep her safe and Deputy Santini yelling loudly for the man to drop the weapon and knowing the man was not complying and having heard the man saying you have to end me.

Deputy Trimboli said, “Deputy Santini fired his pistol once.” Deputy Trimboli got on the radio to report “shots fired, shots fired.” Deputy Trimboli went up the stairs to assess the situation. The door was closed with both deputies on the outside. He pushed open the door, moving the man behind it. The man was on the ground face down. Deputy Trimboli rolled him over and saw a gunshot wound. He knew they needed to render aid right away and let people know what was going on. He didn’t know what radio traffic was getting out. He had Deputy Santini start CPR while he went to his patrol vehicle for first aid supplies. Deputy Trimboli applied a chest seal and took over CPR. They switched back and forth three times providing CPR. Deputy Santini radioed that CPR was started and that they needed medics. Deputy Trimboli continued CPR until medics arrived. Sergeant Crawford arrived and escorted both deputies off the porch. As Deputy Trimboli was walking off the porch, someone said, “Don’t kick that” and he saw a firearm on the porch. Deputies Trimboli and Santini were escorted to separate patrol vehicles to wait. They then were transported, separately, to LCSO to meet with IDFIT investigators.

On April 11, 2023, EPD Detective Trevor Hart with OSP Sgt. Erik Fisher interviewed Deputy Conner Santini. Deputy Santini was asked background questions per the IDFIT protocol. Deputy Santini stated in substance that he was hired in March of 2018. He described his background and the day of the incident. About midnight, he returned to the Sheriff’s Office to check out and write reports. As he pulled up, he saw Deputy Trimboli pull up next to him. At that time, they were both dispatched to Fisher Road to assist a fire call, which he said is fairly common for them. It was a male in his 60s, likely intoxicated, unknown on weapons.

Deputy Santini said his thought process was to go there, make sure everything is safe and play the “peacekeeper.” They weren’t going for an investigation, “just make it safe and let fire do their job and assist where needed.” On the way, dispatch advised of a prior menacing with a knife and that he was located in a mobile home on the property. They arrived at the property and didn’t know specifically where to go so Deputy Trimboli called the person who made the initial call for EMTs. They located the correct building and proceeded quietly to the mobile home. They first tried to split up and approach the mobile home from different sides, but the ground was too wet and unstable so they both approached from the same side to the stairs that were the access to the porch at the front of the residence. Deputy Santini knocked on the door, which did not appear to be latched. Deputy Santini heard a voice from inside. Deputy Santini made a second announcement that it was the Sheriff’s Office and was told to come in. Deputy Santini made a third notification that it was the Sheriff’s office and they wanted to get him some help. Mr. Vanhoy said, “Yeah, open the door.” Deputy Santini said Mr. Vanhoy was seated in the center of a couch about 15 feet and to the left the door with a coffee table in front of him. There was low lighting. Mr. Vanhoy had his hands in his lap. Deputy Santini told Mr. Vanhoy that they were there to check things out so he could be

transported by the “fire guys.” Mr. Vanhoy was mumbling about being in pain. Deputy Santini said they were there to help and for him to come out. At that point, Deputy Santini turned and told Deputy Trimboli, who was behind him, that he thought they were “code 4 for medics.” As Deputy Santini turned back to view Mr. Vanhoy who was grabbing something from the coffee table with his right hand. It appeared to be a semi-automatic pistol and Deputy Santini drew his firearm. Deputy Santini said Mr. Vanhoy moved slowly as if to make sure Deputy Santini saw the item and then put his hand with it behind him. Deputy Santini said he asked, “Hey, what was that?” and that Mr. Vanhoy replied, “What?” Deputy Santini said, “I saw the gun. Get your hands away from the gun.” At that point, Deputy Santini was giving commands with his weapon drawn to Mr. Vanhoy to show his hands and drop the gun. Mr. Vanhoy said, “Shoot me. Do it. Shoot me. Do it.” Deputy Santini was yelling, “Get your hands away from the gun! Don’t make me shoot you! I don’t want to shoot you!” Mr. Vanhoy continued to say, “Do it.” Deputy Santini was yelling, “Get your fucking hand away from the gun! Show me your fucking hands! Please!”

Deputy Santini said that Mr. Vanhoy was in a “loop” and he was escalated, so he tried a de-escalation method that he had seen in a video at the academy. “We’re in a really tough spot here. I want to help you” in an effort to bring it down. At that point he heard a woman behind him yelling and became aware of Deputy Trimboli engaging with the yelling female. Mr. Vanhoy stood up with the gun at that point and Deputy Santini had to direct his attention back to Mr. Vanhoy. Mr. Vanhoy stood waving the gun back and forth, not pointing it directly at Deputy Santini. Deputy Santini raised his voice again, “Verlin, drop the gun. Don’t come any closer. I’m going to shoot you. I don’t want to shoot you. Don’t do this to me.” Deputy Santini said he heard something about a pellet gun and so he asked Mr. Vanhoy, “Is this a fake gun? Is it a pellet gun?” Mr. Vanhoy raised the gun up and looked at it and said, “Does this look fake to you?” Deputy Santini did not think it looked fake, it looked like a real semi-automatic handgun. He looked for any indication that it was not a real gun. “I was looking for anything right there to, um, to prove that it was a fake gun or not capable of killing me, but there was nothing that I was observing or that he was saying or doing that indicated to me that it was anything but a real firearm and that, you know, he had the intention of using it, you know, likely at either myself or Deputy Trimboli, as he went through whatever he was going through. Um, so, continuing to challenge, and he starts walking towards me with it now... So now he’s walking towards me. I’m challenging, challenging. He brandishes it. Finally raises it up, and he’s still in this, ‘Do it. Shoot me. Do it. Shoot me.’ Dialog. Never able to break him from that.” He moved closer “and he’s still moving my way, and he is raising the firearm. And I fire once.”

The gun fell to the floor at the threshold of the door and Mr. Vanhoy fell to the floor partially behind the open door. Deputy Santini kicked the weapon away and pulled Mr. Vanhoy away from the door. It was days later that Deputy Santini learned it was a pellet gun. Deputy Santini did a quick check of himself that he was ok and a quick check with Deputy Trimboli and then began applying pressure to the gunshot wound, on Mr. Vanhoy’s left side, upper abdomen. Deputy Trimboli went for the first aid kit and the chest seal. Deputy Santini continued with chest compressions while Deputy Trimboli was trying to make contact on the radio to get the medics. Deputy Trimboli told Deputy Santini that he was having trouble getting out on the radio. He was getting “tones” for not everything he was saying being

relayed. Deputy Trimboli took over chest compressions and Deputy Santini went out to his patrol vehicle and turned on the lights to make them more visible. Dispatch asked if it was code 4 for medics to enter and Deputy Santini answered that it was. He and Deputy Trimboli continued to take turns applying chest compressions until the medics arrived. Deputies arrived and he and Deputy Trimboli were removed from the scene.

The radio logs show that there were two different radio towers that transmissions were going through and that there were interruptions in transmissions and failed transmissions.

The Medical Examiner performed an autopsy on April 7, 2023 at 1:51 p.m. on Verlin Vanhoy, age 66. The Conclusions include that there was a gunshot wound to the left upper abdomen. The wound course was front to back, left toward center, and slightly downward. The projectile was recovered along the left side of the upper lumbar spinal column.

Cause of death: Gunshot wound to the abdomen, officer involved shooting. Manner of death: Homicide.

Deputy Santini's duty weapon was a Glock 21 .45 semi-automatic. With the shell casing located at the scene, and the round retrieved at autopsy, all rounds were accounted for.

In Summary:

Deputies Trimboli and Santini were dispatched to an address on Fisher Rd. to assist Fire with a medical call, a fairly common call for service. They were told the person in need of assistance, Verlin Vanhoy, was intoxicated. They were not told he had made statements indicating he may be suicidal or that he claimed to have weapons during a call from dispatch to Mr. Vanhoy.

Deputies Trimboli and Santini arrived at the location. Deputy Trimboli had spoken with the person who called 911, Mr. Vanhoy's daughter, three times before making contact. She told Deputy Trimboli that her dad would have kitchen knives and maybe a pellet gun, but she had no way to know for sure what he might have.

The location was a mobile home with a porch covered in items and a storm door that opened out, making it so that only one deputy could get to the door. Deputy Santini went to the door, knocked and announced that the Sheriff's Office was there to make sure it was safe for the EMTs to come in and assist Mr. Vanhoy. Deputy Trimboli was behind Deputy Santini. Mr. Vanhoy picked up an item that looked to be a black handgun. Deputy Santini drew his firearm. Deputy Santini began making commands to Mr. Vanhoy to drop the weapon and show his hands, repeatedly. Mr. Vanhoy refused. Deputy Santini pleaded with Mr. Vanhoy to drop the weapon and let them get him help. Mr. Vanhoy refused. Mr. Vanhoy said he wanted to die. Mr. Vanhoy's daughter ran out to the location screaming that it was a pellet gun. Deputy Santini became aware of the possibility it wasn't a real gun and asked Mr. Vanhoy if it was a "fake gun." Mr. Vanhoy asked, "Does this look fake to you?", rose from the couch and took steps toward Deputy Santini. Deputy Santini had already stepped back at the first sighting of the apparent firearm. As Mr. Vanhoy advanced toward Deputy Santini,

All efforts to de-escalate the situation had failed. Deputy Santini fired one shot from his duty weapon in response to the perceived threat of deadly force against him. Aid was immediately rendered until medics arrived on scene. Mr. Vanhoy died from the gunshot wound.

Under these circumstances, I find that the use of deadly force by Deputy Santini was lawful. These events are tragic and life-changing to all involved. The family requests their privacy as they grieve be respected.

There will be an after-action review of the IDFIT investigation to determine whether all protocols were followed.