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The following is the text of the statement by District Attorney G. Michael Green at the Press Conference held on Thursday, October 23, 2008 regarding Commonwealth V. Lemuel Payne:

My name is Michael Green, District Attorney of Delaware County. I am here with Chief Robert Tinsley of the Borough of Sharon Hill Police Department and Detective John Hoffner, also with the Borough of Sharon Hill Police Department. Earlier today, an arrest warrant was issued charging Lemuel Payne, age 27, of State Road, Upper Darby, Delaware County, with the following crimes:

1. Accidents Involving Death or Personal Injury, a felony of the third degree in Pennsylvania under Title 75 Section 3742
2. Immediate Notice of Accident to Police Department under Title 75 Section 3746
3. Duty to Give Information and Render Aid under Title 75 Section 3744; and
4. Tampering with or Fabricating Physical Evidence, a misdemeanor of the second degree in Pennsylvania under Title 18 Section 4910.

As with the charging of every defendant, the Defendant Lemuel Payne, is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

On Sunday, August 3, 2008 at approximately 10:15 p.m., in the area of Chester Pike and Laurel Road, Sharon Hill, Pennsylvania, a pedestrian Faith Sinclair Ferrell, age 16, had been struck by an automobile and died at the scene. The automobile immediately fled the scene, its driver making no effort to stop and no effort to render aid to Faith Sinclair Ferrell.

Police officers interviewed witnesses at the scene, each of whom indicated the striking vehicle was a dark colored Mercedes Benz with bright headlights. The witnesses stated that the vehicle fled east on Chester Pike toward Darby Borough. Officers searched the scene and located what appeared to be the plastic housing cover for a black side view mirror near the young girl's body. Through their investigation, police learned that this vehicle part was a right side view mirror housing cover, which would fit an S Class Mercedes Benz, manufactured during the years 2000 to 2003.

On August 6, 2008, a police officer with the City of Philadelphia Police Department contacted Sharon Hill Police Department Detective John Hoffner to relay information received from a confidential informant. This Philadelphia Police Department informant had provided

reliable information in the past. The informant stated the Mercedes Benz vehicle involved in the hit and run accident was inside a garage at 312 State Road, Upper Darby Township, Pennsylvania. The informant named the owner and identified the driver of the hit and run vehicle as Lemuel Payne.

Upper Darby Township Police Department began surveillance on the garage, Upper Darby detectives observed Lemuel Payne leave the garage, get into a Volkswagon automobile and drive away. This Volkswagen was registered to Elaine Payne of the unit block Wheeler Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Elaine Payne is identified as the mother of Defendant Lemuel Payne.

A search warrant was obtained for the garage located at 312 S. State Road, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania. On August 6, 2008, a 2000 Mercedes Benz was recovered inside the garage. This vehicle had damage consistent with the striking of a pedestrian. The vehicle registration plate had been removed from the vehicle. The vehicle was covered with two blankets. An investigation revealed that the vehicle was registered to Defendant Lemuel Payne.

Detective Michael Duffy of the Delaware County Criminal Investigation Division interviewed Timothy Roykouff who stated that on Sunday, August 3, 2008 between 10:20 p.m. and 11:00 p.m., he saw his neighbor at 312 S. State Road pull up to the garage at the rear of the

property. He said that his neighbor removed a number of items from the garage. Mr. Roykouff then observed his neighbor place the vehicle in the garage. Mr. Roykouff identified his neighbor as Defendant Lemuel Payne.

In Pennsauken, New Jersey, Detectives Duffy and Hoffner interviewed Marc Stephens. Mr. Stephens told detectives he was the immediate supervisor of Lemuel Payne at Deer Park Water Company in Pennsauken, New Jersey.

Mr. Stephens said that on Tuesday evening, August 5th Payne called to notify Mr. Stephens that Payne would not be at work the next day. Payne claimed to be sick.

The defendant did not appear at work the next day, August 6th. However, on August 6th, another Deer Park employee called Marc Stephens to provide him a telephone number, instructing Mr. Stephens to call Lemuel Payne at that number.

Mr. Stephens called the number and spoke to Payne. Lemuel Payne told Mr. Stephens he was in trouble. The defendant asked Stephens if he had seen the news about an accident on Sunday, August 3rd. Stephens said he had not. Lemuel Payne explained he had been involved in an accident and he hit a pedestrian -- a girl.

On Thursday, August 7th, Payne called Mr. Stephens. Lemuel Payne asked Stephens to disregard their conversation of the previous day. Mr. Stephens refused. Mr. Stephens identified Lemuel Payne as the driver of the vehicle striking and killing Faith Sinclair Ferrell.

This case is a continuing investigation. Those having any information regarding the death of Faith Sinclair Ferrell or Defendant, Lemuel Payne, should immediately contact the Borough of Sharon Hill Police Department at 610-237-6200.