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To: Local and State Media Outlets

On 11/29/2018 at approx. 9:33 pm, Ontario police officers were advised that a Malheur County deputy was conducting a traffic stop at SE 9th Ave & SE 4th Street and was requesting a back-up officer. Two Ontario Police officers arrived a short time later. An Ontario officer started to speak with a front seat passenger (Later identified as Heriberto "Eddie" Ortega, 19 years old of Nampa Idaho, most recent known residence was in the Boise Idaho area) of the vehicle when the door of the vehicle was opened and the subject (Ortega) was armed with a handgun. At that point, (approx 9:44pm) shots were fired. The officer fired at least one round. The number of rounds fired by the officer and whether the suspect fired his gun is still under investigation. We do not believe the suspect was injured and he quickly fled the area on foot with the handgun. The driver of the vehicle, 32 yr old Irene Enedelia Pena of Nyssa, fled the scene and is currently being sought by police for questioning.

Officers gave foot and vehicle pursuit of the armed suspect and he was contained within a neighborhood in the 500 block of SE 6th Ave. While officers were searching for the suspect they were advised by the two residents of an apartment that the suspect had forced his way into their home at 540 SE 6th Ave. The two occupants had fled from the home unharmed. Officers set up a containment of the residence and OSP negotiator established phone contact with the suspect at approx 11:26pm. The Oregon State Police detective/negotiator spoke to the suspect for a total of nearly 3 hours trying to encourage him to not harm himself or others and to peacefully surrender.

Officers from Ontario Police, Malheur County Sheriff's Office, Oregon State Police, Nyssa Police and the High Desert Drug Task Force responded to the scene, as did Ontario Fire and Rescue and Treasure Valley Paramedics. District Attorney Dave Goldthorpe also arrived on scene at approx 11:30pm to assist as needed. Officers shut down traffic and evacuated numerous residences. Several gunshots were heard over the course of over 3 hours fired by the suspect from inside the residence. An OSP trooper fired a round towards the residence at approx 11:16pm, which did not result in injury to the suspect or any officers. At 2:07am, just after hearing one of the shots from inside the residence it was feared that the suspect had done himself harm. It ended up being (according to the suspect) an accidental discharge while the suspect was climbing near a window, and the bullet never left the residence. The negotiator continued his tireless efforts to convince the suspect to come out unarmed. At approx 2:14am, another shot was heard from inside the residence. After a few moments of trying to re-establish contact, it was believed that the suspect may have injured himself. The Malheur County Sheriff's emergency action (CERT) team forced entry into the residence where the suspect was found to have a self inflicted gunshot wound to the head and several shell casings were near his body. After the room was clear and safe, Medical personnel who were staged in the area quickly rendered aid and transported the suspect to a local

hospital in critical condition. The suspect was later transferred to a Boise area hospital, and as of last update remains in critical condition.

The initial traffic stop/Ontario officer discharged weapon scene is being investigated by an outside agency, Oregon State Police as well as an internal investigation. The OSP involved discharge of the weapon is being investigated by the Malheur County Sheriff's Office as well as their own internal investigation.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

David M. Goldthorpe
Malheur County District Attorney