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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State Attorney Monique Worrell’s Statement on an Officer-Involved Critical Incident Involving the Osceola County Sheriff’s Office

The critical incident involves a pursuit that led to a fire at a Wawa gas station in Orange County

OSCEOLA COUNTY (May 19, 2022) — On February 27, 2022, there was an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) in Orange County, involving the Osceola County Sheriff’s Office. Shortly after news outlets reported the incident, the Office of the State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit inquired about the status of the investigation with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). We were informed by FDLE that the Sheriff’s Office had not requested an investigation into the incident.

Throughout the month of March, our office received several public inquiries regarding this incident, prompting our office to contact the Sheriff’s Office in accordance with the investigative procedure of our Officer-Involved Critical Incident Policy. The Sheriff’s Office advised that it was conducting its own internal criminal investigation into the incident. We were not provided with any further details at that time.

Our Officer-Involved Critical Incident Team was scheduled for a briefing with the Sheriff’s Office in this matter on Tuesday, May 24, 2022. To date, our office has not received any information that has not been made publicly available. Yesterday, we were made aware via media reports that the Sheriff would hold a press conference to discuss this matter publicly today. This morning, we were advised by the Sheriff’s Office that charges are forthcoming on one deputy and a suspect involved in the incident.

The State Attorney’s Office developed the OICI policy to ensure transparency, and to work collaboratively with law enforcement agencies to provide the community with a thorough investigation that they could rely on. In order to retain and continue building community trust, it is imperative that our law enforcement agencies work collaboratively in providing transparent investigations that are above reproach. Upon receipt of the information from the Sheriff’s Office, the State Attorney’s Office will review the case, conduct any supplemental investigation needed, and file the appropriate charges.

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The Office of the State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit is represented by The Honorable Monique H. Worrell and serves Orange and Osceola counties in Central Florida. A culturally diverse community, the area is home to nearly 1.4 million residents and is a vacation destination for millions each year. Our office is committed to making Orlando and the surrounding area a vibrant and safe place to live, work and play.

For general media inquiries, please contact: PIO@sao9.org.

For media records request, please contact: mediarecordsrequest@sao9.org.

For specific media inquiries pertaining to State Attorney Monique Worrell, please contact Keisha Mulfort at kmulfort@sao9.org.

Seek Justice. Love Mercy. Walk Humbly.