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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

District Attorney will not file charges against Emergency Medical Technician

6/5/2009 – District Attorney Max Cook announced today that following a thorough review of the case, his office is declining to file charges against Emergency Medical Technician Maurice White, Jr.

After reviewing the reports presented, statements of witnesses, and videos regarding the incident which occurred on May 24, 2009 between Trooper Daniel Martin and Emergency Medical Technician, Maurice White, Jr., Max Cook, District Attorney for Creek and Okfuskee Counties, has declined to file charges against White based on information presented.

Cook stated that "after careful consideration of all the facts and circumstances, it does not appear that it would be appropriate to file any charges against White, Martin or any other person involved". Cook said that "although I do not condone their actions, I do not believe that filing charges at this time would serve the best interests of the public or the interests of justice. It has been my experience that emergency service providers generally work well together and it was disappointing to see a situation where that clearly did not happen."

He went on to say that "it is my hope that emergency responders, especially the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, will use this incident to open a dialogue about ways to forge good relationships with their partner agencies. The public is best served when emergency responders make concerted efforts to be respectful of the jobs that each of them are charged with and forge strong partnerships," said Cook.

Cook also stated that since he has closed his review of the matter, he will request that the Oklahoma Highway Patrol consider the release of the trooper's dash-cam video in response to the public's interest.