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Supplemental Statement Regarding Saraya Rees

As mentioned in the previous statement regarding Ms. Rees, there has been a lot of misinformation on social media about this case. Some of this misinformation regards the disposition (sentence) the juvenile judge imposed in this case.

What the public needs to know, especially as it relates to juvenile delinquency cases, is the dispositional (sentencing) recommendation does not come from this office. It is made by the juvenile department. However, whenever the juvenile department believes the youth may need an out of home placement, they staff the case with a local committee called the Substitute Care Review Committee (SCRC) to determine the appropriate disposition (sentence) for the youth. The committee is comprised of a number of community partners, treatment providers, etc. who are knowledgeable about youth and the services available in our community and the State of Oregon. They review the facts and relevant materials and make a dispositional recommendation for the juvenile department. In making that recommendation, they consider a variety of factors including services available in the local community, services available on a state level, the severity of the charges, the danger to the victims and the community posed by the youth, the youth's treatment needs, etc. The defense attorney, the youth, and the

youth's family are invited to participate. The DA's office rarely attends SCRC. This office did not participate in the SCRC review in this case.

As to Ms. Rees, the Coos County Juvenile Department asked the SCRC for Coos County to review the case and make a recommendation to the department as to what sort of disposition should be imposed. After carefully reviewing this case, the SCRC recommended that Ms. Rees be committed to the custody of the Oregon Youth Authority with a direct commit to closed custody, meaning a youth correctional facility. The Coos County Juvenile Department accepted that recommendation and forwarded it to the court with their request that the court follow the recommendation of the Committee. The court followed the recommendation of the committee.

So it is clear, this office did not make the recommendation that Ms. Rees be placed at a youth correctional facility. That recommendation came from a committee of professionals who deal daily with juveniles in need of services. While the SCRC makes a recommendation to the court, the final decision is ultimately made by the judge. In this case, the juvenile court judge imposed a disposition (sentence) that was recommended again by professionals who deal daily with juveniles in need of services.