NEWS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: Wednesday, March 26, 2014, 4:00 p.m.

From: Alex Gardner, District Attorney

Details: The Lane County Interagency Deadly Force Investigations Team (IDFIT) has completed its review of the March 11, 2014 review of the incident in which SPD Officer Brian Keetle, a K-9 officer and a nine year veteran of the Springfield Police Department, shot suspect Brian Walker.

After review of the evidence developed to date, it is clear that Officer Keetle’s use of force was lawful and consistent with the requirements of Oregon law.

Brief overview of the Officer Involved Shooting:

Officer Keetle and other officers were initially dispatched to a report of a suicidal subject. While en route, dispatch advised the responding officers that the subject was threatening people inside the house and “threatening to shoot any cops that come near him”.

Shortly after arrival Keetle heard what sounded like a gunshot. He approached the residence with his Smith & Wesson .40 caliber semi-automatic service weapon drawn. Shortly thereafter, Keetle confronted subject Brian Walker as Walker was facing another officer and failing to follow his commands. The officer giving Walker commands was exposed in an open area near the home.

As Keetle started giving Walker commands Walker turned to face him. Keetle had Walker at gunpoint and could see a handgun in Walker’s waistband. Keetle repeatedly ordered Walker to “Get on the ground!” Walker failed to comply and, when he suddenly reached towards the gun in his waistband, Keetle fired four shots, striking Walker several times.

Keetle and another SPD officer immediately rendered emergency medical care to Walker who continues to recover from the shooting.

The District Attorney’s office is releasing this information because the investigation of the facts immediately surrounding the shooting is sufficiently complete to confirm officer Keetle’s compliance with Oregon law, but law enforcement will continues to investigate the events of March 11th until the extent of Mr. Walker’s criminal liability is definitively and fully established.

No further details will be released by the District Attorney’s office until any associated criminal cases have been resolved.