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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARGES ANNOUNCED IN SEPTEMBER 15, 2024 BICYCLE COLLISION

JOHNSON COUNTY, IA, Nov. 8, 2024 – Johnson County Attorney Rachel Zimmermann Smith announced charges in the September 15, 2024, death of Ashlee Hopkins.

While participating in an organized bicycle ride, Hopkins was struck by a minivan on Rohret Road in Iowa City. She died on September 23, 2024 from her injuries.

Ok Soon Lee, 77 of Iowa City is charged with Failure to Maintain Control in violation of Iowa code 321.288, Speeding (6-10 mph over) in violation of Iowa Code 321.285, and Failure to Drive on the Right-hand Side of the Roadway in violation of Iowa Code 321.297.

Iowa City Police Department investigators conducted a full investigation, including a review of Lee's medical records, the condition of her vehicle, and a forensic analysis of Lee's cell phone. The investigation found no evidence of intoxication or cell phone use. There was no evidence found to indicate that the Defendant intentionally engaged in conduct that reflected a willful and wanton disregard for the safety of others.

Zimmermann Smith said,

"While the damage caused by the Defendant's conduct is immeasurable, given the facts of this case there is no probable cause for a higher level of charge. Ms. Hopkins death was a tragic loss, and a reminder of the responsibility all drivers bear to operate motor vehicles safely."

Under Iowa Code 805.11 each charge carries a potential penalty of up to 30 days in jail. Under Iowa Code 321.482A a conviction for failing to drive on the right-hand side of the roadway that causes death carries an enhanced penalty of a fine of one thousand dollars or suspension of the violator's driver's license for not more than one hundred eighty days, or both. The other charges carry a potential fine of \$105-855. Lee's initial appearance is scheduled for December 6, 2024 at 8:00AM.

A criminal charge is merely an accusation. All persons are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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