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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Des Moines County Attorney Amy Beavers Ignores Iowa Law
In Deciding Not To Charge Ofc. Jesse Hill**

Burlington, IA – On January 6, 2015, Autumn Steele, wife and mother of two, was fatally shot at the hands of Burlington PD Officer Jesse Hill. Ofc. Hill's fate was placed in the hands of County Attorney Amy Beavers when she decided not to seek the assistance of the Iowa Attorney General in deciding whether Ofc. Hill should be charged in Autumn's death.

Today, Ms. Beavers announced her decision not to charge Ofc. Hill, stating that she "determined that no criminal charges against Officer Jesse Hill are supported by the evidence." Based on her own statement, it appears that Ms. Beavers reached this determination by simply ignoring Iowa law.

In her statement, Ms. Beavers cites Iowa Code Section 707.5, Involuntary Manslaughter, as follows:

A person commits voluntary manslaughter when the person unintentionally causes the death of another person by the commission of a public offense other than a forcible felony or escape.

She goes on to argue that "for a charge of Involuntary Manslaughter to be warranted, Officer Hill must have been committing a public offense at the time he caused her death."

Ms. Beavers' conclusion can only be reached by ignoring the *actual* text of Section 707.5, which reads:

1. A person commits involuntary manslaughter punishable as:
 - a. A class "D" felony when the person unintentionally causes the death of another person by the commission of a public offense other than a forcible felony or escape.
 - b. An aggravated misdemeanor *when the person unintentionally causes the death of another person by the commission of an act in a manner likely to cause death or serious injury.*

[emphasis added]

According to Ms. Beavers' own description of Ofc. Hill's actions, he fired two shots in Autumn Steele's direction, both of which struck her. If that is not "the commission of an act in a manner likely to cause death or serious injury," it is difficult to imagine what would be.

Ms. Beavers does not argue otherwise; instead, she has simply ignored the law.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A Klein'.

Adam Klein
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Adam Klein is an Atlanta, Georgia attorney.

He represents Kai Schoff, Autumn Steele's 7-year-old son.

Full text of this release is available at:

<http://adamkleinlaw.com/press/2015-02-27-CountyAttyAmyBeaversIgnoresIowaLaw.pdf>

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§707.5 Involuntary manslaughter.

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a. A class “D” felony when the person unintentionally causes the death of another person by the commission of a public offense other than a forcible felony or escape.

b. An aggravated misdemeanor when the person unintentionally causes the death of another person by the commission of an act in a manner likely to cause death or serious injury.

2. Involuntary manslaughter as defined in this section is an included offense under an indictment for murder in the first or second degree or voluntary manslaughter.

3. For purposes of determining whether a person should register as a sex offender pursuant to the provisions of chapter 692A, the fact finder shall make a determination as provided in section 692A.126.

[C51, §2576; R60, §4199; C73, §3856; C97, §4751; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §12919, 12920; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, §690.10, 690.11; C79, 81, §707.5]

2009 Acts, ch 119, §51; 2013 Acts, ch 90, §225

Definition of forcible felony, §702.11