



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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FOR THE NORFOLK DISTRICT

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Press Release

WEYMOUTH OFFICER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

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A Weymouth Police Officer directing traffic around utility work being done in a busy intersection was struck and killed by a pickup truck shortly after 9 a.m. this morning (August 24, 2009), leaving a wife and three young children and leaving a police department and many in the Town of Weymouth in shock.

The driver of that truck, Ronald Gale, DOB 12/03/1929, of Weymouth, is accused of blowing through the stop sign where Front Street enters West Street, causing him to crash into a passing Toyota Camry, then continue into the intersection and pinning Officer Michael Davey against the large National Grid bucket truck parked there to do utility work. Davey was pronounced dead at South Shore Hospital.

Massachusetts State Police from the Norfolk District Attorney's Office, Crime Scene Services Section, and the Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section conducted the investigation into the crash. While the investigation continues, police developed probable cause to issue citations to Gale for the following four violations:

1. Motor Vehicle Homicide by Negligent Operation
2. Speeding
3. Failure to Stop at a Stop Sign
4. Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

The date of Gale's arraignment will be set by the Clerk of Courts at the Quincy District Court in the coming days.

Police also successfully petitioned the Registry of Motor Vehicles to withdraw Gale's License as being an immanent threat.

After meeting with Officer Davey's family in their Weymouth home this afternoon, District Attorney Keating relayed the family's desire to not be contacted by reporters during this difficult time at an emotional 4:15 p.m. press conference at the Weymouth Police Department that included acting Police Chief Tim Carr and Mayor Sue Kay.

Chief Carr said that he had known Davey since he was a young boy, as his father Ernie Davey served more than 30 years on the Weymouth Police Department until last year. He called Davey an exemplary officer and a fine family man.

"This is a person who served his country in the military, serving in Iraq, and returned to serve his town as a police officer," District Attorney Keating said. "We have lost a guardian of our safety. That kind of person does not come along every day

Any and all defendants mentioned are legally innocent until proven guilty.