NEWS RELEASE

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

State Investigating Officer-involved Shooting in Ravalli County

HELENA – Ravalli County Sheriff Chris Hoffman has requested that the Montana Department of Justice's Division of Criminal Investigation look into an officer-involved shooting that took place Thursday night near Hamilton.

At 7:36pm yesterday, a woman called the Ravalli County Sheriff Office's non-emergency number saying her son was having problems with his girlfriend. The mother requested a deputy go to the man's residence at 808 Cuf Lane. Shortly before 8pm, the 47-year-old male in question also called the Ravalli County Sheriff Office's non-emergency number requesting a deputy come to the same address. A deputy arrived shortly before 8:30pm and made contact with the man. While talking with the deputy for several minutes, the man was angry and agitated, accusing the deputy of not being a real law enforcement officer. The man then walked toward a weapon that was visible in the room. The deputy told the man not to pick up the weapon but he disregarded the instructions and did so anyway, turning the weapon toward the deputy. In response to the threat, the deputy fired on the man and killed him. He died at the scene.

In accordance with standard procedure, the deputy involved – a three-year veteran of the Ravalli County Sheriff's Office – has been placed on administrative leave pending an investigation into the incident.

Powell County Coroner John Pohle will be the coroner on this case. Once the state's investigation is complete, the case file will be presented to Coroner Pohle and the Ravalli County Attorney for review. A coroner's inquest will be scheduled and held in Ravalli County.

City police departments and county sheriff offices routinely request the Department of Justice's Division of Criminal Investigation to investigate officer-involved shootings.

More information will be released when it becomes available.

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