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9446 S. Raymond Avenue, Oak Lawn, IL 60453

VILLAGE MANAGER

Thomas Phelan

VILLAGE CLERK

Claire Henning

Phone: (708) 636-4400

Fax: (708) 636-8606

www.oaklawn-il.gov**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Date: August 8th, 2023

The Oak Lawn Police Department has concluded its investigation into the June 5th, 2023 motor vehicle accident that tragically took the life of Murod Kurdi in front of his home in the 5100 block of west 91st St. The driver of the vehicle that struck Mr. Kurdi, Leanne Cusack, remained on the scene and engaged with three (3) different Oak Lawn police officers who were investigating the accident. One of the officers detected a slight odor of alcohol on Ms. Cusack and asked if she had been drinking. She replied that she had 2 alcoholic drinks an hour or 2 before.

Given these circumstances officers administered the horizontal-gaze field sobriety test which looks for 6 different signs of impairment. Ms. Cusack showed zero (0) signs of impairment. Officers also noted that her speech was clear, logical, coherent, and not mumbled or slurred. They observed that her eyes were not bloodshot nor glassy, that she was not swaying back and forth, and that she was coordinated and did not need to use anything for balance.

Given these circumstances, officers asked Ms. Cusack to perform additional field sobriety tests and she declined, which is within her rights. Lacking the necessary probable cause, and absent any elements of a criminal act, Ms. Cusack was issued a citation for "Failure to Reduce Speed to Avoid a Crash" and given the "Warning to Motorist" which could result in her license being suspended.

Oak Lawn police worked and consulted with and other law enforcement agencies to complete a thorough investigation into the accident. Search warrants were obtained for Ms. Cusack's phone usage data and her vehicle's event-data recorder. The *Cook County Sheriff's Police* completed a crash-reconstruction report and an expert in speed determination looked at video of the crash to estimate Ms. Cusack's speed. Neither report showed evidence of a criminal act (her speed was estimated at 27 mph in the 25-mph zone).

Oak Lawn police also contacted the *Illinois Traffic Safety Resource Program* (www.uis.edu/cspl/about/units-staff/illinois-traffic-safety-resource-program) who reviewed the investigation and issued a report, concluding 1) the officers involved did a thorough and comprehensive investigation, and 2) the officers were correct in not arresting Ms. Cusack for the offense of DUI, and 3) the officers followed proper protocols and procedures (a copy of that report is included with this Release).

Today (8/8/23) Ms. Cusack appeared in the Bridgeview courthouse for a hearing on the citation she received, and the "Warning to Motorist" she received will be adjudicated by the Illinois Secretary of State. It's unfortunate that some people are trying to exploit this tragedy for financial gain and divide our community by making outrageous accusations and malicious claims. Based on all of the evidence gathered, this was a tragic accident, and our Village continues to mourn the loss of Mr. Kurdi and pray for his family.

Contact: Gerald Vetter, Division Chief of Investigations, 708-499-7796, gvetter@oaklawn-il.gov