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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Franklin Man Found Guilty in Fatal I-75 Crash

State v. Thomas Leonard, 2016-CR-1078

DAYTON, OH (11/09/2016) – Prosecuting Attorney Mat Heck, Jr. announced today that **Thomas Eugene Leonard**, 56, of Franklin, has been found guilty for causing a crash on I-75 that occurred on August 26, 2015 in which Mitchell Munoz, of Trenton, was killed.

Around 7:15 a.m. on Wednesday, August 26, 2015, the defendant was driving a pickup truck at a high rate of speed southbound on I-75. Witnesses reported the defendant was driving recklessly and his vehicle was passing other motorists on the shoulder. Just south of the West Carrollton / Central Avenue exit, near mile marker 46, the defendant drove his vehicle off the right side of the roadway and struck the victim's vehicle, which was parked on the shoulder. The victim was sitting in his car, waiting for a tow truck because he had a flat tire. Earlier, an Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper had stopped and checked on Munoz, making sure he was safely off the roadway with his hazard lights on.

The victim, 41 year old Mitchell Munoz, of Trenton, was pronounced dead at the scene. Witness statements and an accident reconstruction estimated the defendant's vehicle was traveling well over 100 mph at the time of the crash.

On June 1, 2016 the defendant was indicted for one count of Aggravated Vehicular Homicide. Today he was found guilty as charged.

The defendant is on the Electronic Home Detention Program (EHDP). He will be sentenced on December 16, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. He faces a possible sentence of up to 5 years in prison.

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