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For Immediate Release

Update: Accidental Shooting Claims Life of 3 Year Old

(Paulding County, GA) On Tuesday April 26, 2016 at approximately 7:00 am a 911 call was placed to Paulding E-911 in reference to a child being shot. Upon arrival Deputies located a three year old white male child with a gunshot wound to the chest. Deputies performed CPR and other life saving measures until Fire/EMS could arrive on scene. Once Fire/EMS arrived, they transported the child to Paulding Wellstar Hospital where the child was later pronounced dead.

The incident occurred at 73 Camp Circle Dallas, GA 30132 which was where the child lived with his father, mother, and younger twin sisters. The Paulding County Sheriff's Office Crimes Against Children Unit is actively investigating this incident and there have been no charges filed at this time. Preliminarily, Detectives believe that the child obtained the handgun from inside the residence and accidentally shot himself. Since this is still an active investigation, Detectives are not ready to release where the gun was located and how the child obtained the gun. Detectives confirmed that the boy's name is Holston Cole and that he was three years old.

Earlier this morning (04/27/16), the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Division of Forensic Science performed an autopsy on Holston Cole. According to Detectives and Forensic Pathologists, the gunshot wound was consistent with being both accidental and self-inflicted. Detectives also confirmed that the gun involved in the incident belonged to Holston Cole's father, David Cole, and is described as a Ruger LCP .380 caliber semi-automatic pistol.

At this time, there is still an active investigation being conducted and any additional details cannot be released in this case. It must be noted that since this is an active investigation, the potential for criminal charges still exists. If and/or when criminal charges are filed, we will be sure to make the members of the media aware.