

STATEMENT OF CHARGES AGAINST  
SHANE ROPER  
A MEMBER OF THE MINNESOTA STATE PATROL

Lt. Colonel Jeremy Geiger, as Assistant Chief of the Minnesota State Patrol, files with the Commissioner of Public Safety, State of Minnesota, the following Statement of Charges against Trp. Shane Roper #502, a member of the Minnesota State Patrol, who he believes is guilty of:

Violations of General Order(s):

- 20-10-000 — Oath of a Minnesota State Trooper
- 02-10-029 — Conduct — Sworn Members
  
- 13-30-004 - Patrol Unit, Operation and Maintenance
- 12-20-011 - Patrolling and Parking
- 08-20-033 — Emergency Vehicle Operations

Circumstances related to the above allegations are as follows:

While on-duty at or around 5:41 p.m. on Saturday, May 18, 2024, Trp. Shane Roper was working traffic enforcement with a ride-along passenger in his squad car. While attempting to initiate a stop on a vehicle for traffic law violations, Trp. Roper was involved in a crash within a semaphore-controlled intersection in the city of Rochester. Trp. Roper collided with another vehicle coming from the opposite direction that was attempting to make a left turn. There were four occupants in this vehicle; one died as a result of the crash and two other passengers sustained injuries. After this initial crash, the first vehicle that was struck collided with a second vehicle and those occupants were also injured. The ride-along passenger in the squad car also suffered injuries as a result of the crash.

The internal investigation supports the following:

- Trp. Roper attempted to initiate a traffic stop on a vehicle after observing violations that included speeding, rapid lane changes, and failure to wear a seat belt.
- While Trp. Roper was accelerating in an effort to catch up the violator's vehicle on USTH 52, it exited and entered city streets making its way to an intersection controlled by stoplights.
- When Trp. Roper entered the intersection, he had a green light and his emergency lights were not activated.
- Immediately before and at the time of the crash impact within the intersection, Trp. Roper was operating his squad car well over the posted speed limit of 40 mph; at times reaching over 80 mph. ● Trp. Roper had patrolled these areas in the past was familiar with the roadways and intersections.

Under General Order #13-30-004, members shall not operate, on-duty or off-duty, any State Patrol unit in a careless or reckless manner. Similarly, General Order #12-20-011, states members who operate department vehicles shall not assume any special privileges, except while responding to an emergency call. When engaged in

emergency operations, General Order #08-20-033 requires members to use at least one lighted red light to the front whenever assuming emergency vehicle right of way, but members do have discretion with respect to using a siren. This policy also makes clear that it does not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of persons.

IAD Case #24-19

While the enforcement of traffic violations serves an important public safety function, troopers must exercise good judgment and drive with due regard for the safety of others. The intersection where the crash occurred is the entrance to a shopping mall and the speed limit is 40 mph. Given the totality of the circumstances presented here and Trp. Roper's knowledge of this area, it was reckless to travel through this green light at such high speeds. Trp. Roper's actions demonstrate a clear violation of this policy through the failure to exercise good judgment and drive with due regard for the safety of others.

General Order #02-10-029 requires members of the State Patrol to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the integrity and trustworthiness expected of them by the public. They must not exhibit any conduct that discredits themselves or the agency. In the same respect, General Order #20-10-000, outlines that Troopers must abide by their oath to never commit an act that will reflect discredit on the State Patrol. Trp. Roper's conduct has seriously undermined his integrity and trustworthiness with the public. His conduct shows a disregard for the State Patrol's mission of traffic safety and reflects discredit upon the agency. There is simply no justification for Trp. Roper's decision to speed through this intersection. While Trp. Roper may understand the impact of his conduct today, it does not mitigate the poor judgment he showed on May 18, 2024, that will continue to affect him, the State Patrol, and most importantly, the family, friends, and community of those impacted in this crash.

Dated: August 30, 2024



Lt. Col el Jere y G  
Assistant Chief

ABC 61111