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***** NEWS RELEASE *****

DATE: August 6, 2024

FROM: LaSalle County Coroner's Office

On the afternoon of Monday, August 5, 2024, the LaSalle County Coroner's Office was called to Illinois Rt. #251 and N. 17th Rd., Tonica, Illinois, Hope Township, for a deceased, female, individual. The decedent was identified as 86-year-old, Betty L. Gillette, of Ottawa, Illinois.

The deceased female was a passenger in an eastbound vehicle traveling on N. 17th Rd. when the driver failed to stop at the stop sign striking a northbound vehicle. The female driver in the eastbound vehicle was transported to an area hospital. The female driver of the northbound vehicle was transported to a Peoria area hospital by an OSF Life Flight Helicopter.

A forensic investigative autopsy will be conducted on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, with preliminary results pending.

This incident is under further investigation by the LaSalle County Coroner's Office, LaSalle County Sheriff's Office, and Illinois State Police Reconstruction Unit.

Richard Ploch,

LaSalle County Coroner