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2021 Year End Statement

As we wrap up a busy 2021, we look back on some of the great strides forward the 8th Judicial District Attorney's Office has made. A year that began with a myriad of challenges brought on by the pandemic, including the stoppage of jury trials, is finishing with a flurry of new efforts and priorities promoting justice and community safety. We received incredible contributions from long-time team members, as well as the 25 new staff we welcomed over the year, in shaping a mission which values equity, proportionality, and compassion in our work to hold criminal conduct accountable and ensure community safety.

Despite the start of the year in "virtual court", our team stepped up to the plate and safely conducted almost 70 jury trials, including cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, and homicide. Our Victim Services department made more than 49,000 separate communications with victims of crimes, including serving 4,283 individual victims of domestic violence. Our evidence team sifted through the exponential growth of footage from body worn cameras and other digital media. Our Problem-Solving Court team showed new commitment to the success of defendants' rehabilitation and contributed to the creation of a Competency Court Docket to better address the needs of those experiencing significant mental health challenges. Our attorneys conducted dozens of legal trainings for local law enforcement agencies and took part in community events.

We also had great success with several big new initiatives. In the winter we developed a new case filing method that prioritizes the use of prosecutorial discretion in exercising sound judgment at the earliest stages of the criminal process to ensure proportional charging decisions, combat inequities, and better allocate resources. In the spring we launched the Northern Colorado Economic Crime Task Force, a collaboration with law enforcement partners from around the region to focus on combating the large-scale, pervasive financial crimes which are victimizing our community. In the summer we began working with national researchers on an upcoming data collection and transparency initiative that will allow us to identify areas in which we excel and those we can improve, and increase the information we are able to share with the public to build trust in the justice system. In the fall we launched our new adult diversion program, where lower-level offenders are given opportunities to take accountability for their actions and repair the harm caused through non-punitive means.

We thank everyone in Larimer and Jackson County for their support and their stewardship of our community and look forward to continuing to serve, innovate, and seek justice in 2022.