



Community Update from your Denver District Attorney



Denver District Attorney Beth McCann is a modern prosecutor who believes that by advancing community-oriented and prevention approaches, we can promote a smarter and more equitable system of justice for all Denver residents. Today the very concept of justice is being discussed throughout the country and in Denver. The old days of being “tough-on-crime” resulted in mass incarcerations that were specifically harmful to persons and communities of color. DA McCann believes that we can uphold public safety while also looking at the criminal justice system through a wider lens to view the society we want to have. Under her leadership, the Denver DA’s Office is working to create a more fair and equitable criminal justice system for people of all races and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Community Engagement - Promoting public safety and connecting directly with Denver residents is a priority for us. From educating young people, to participating in neighborhood meetings, our office places a high value on interaction with all residents of Denver. By building and strengthening relationships between the community and the District Attorney’s Office, we hope to increase confidence in the criminal justice system.

Addressing Mass Incarceration - While public safety is always our top concern, we’re helping drive down Denver’s incarceration rates. Through our successful diversion programs and specialty courts, we are preventing repeat criminal behavior and helping people make better life choices.

Long before George Floyd’s death sparked calls for criminal justice reform, our office was exploring issues of race and ethnicity in the criminal justice system. The following initiatives are crucial steps to achieving a just and trusted legal system to ensure everyone is treated fairly and with dignity and respect:

Race & Justice Study - DA McCann commissioned an independent research study to examine whether any racial and ethnic disparities existed in how our office prosecutes cases. We were pleased that the study found no pervasive issues of racism or bias, but it did include procedural recommendations that we are committed to pursuing and some that were already underway prior to the report’s release. Two important goals in commissioning this study were to ensure fair justice for all and to build public trust through transparency. The study, *Racial Disparities in Prosecutorial Outcomes: An analysis of felony cases accepted for prosecution in the City and County of Denver*, is available on our website.

Behavioral Health Unit - Mental health and substance abuse are key drivers of criminal behavior. The conventional approach of incarcerating these individuals does not address the underlying issue of addiction. Through early assessment, we’re addressing these issues in a humane and trauma-informed way that keeps high-risk offenders in custody and provides alternatives to incarceration through treatment and rehabilitation to low-risk offenders. DAs oversee specialty courts, like the Veterans Court, which helps veterans who’ve become involved in the criminal justice system get treatment and assistance.

Contact the Denver DA Office Phone: 720-913-9000 Email: info@DenverDA.org Visit: www.DenverDA.org



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Thank you for inviting us to your community.
Our criminal justice system works best when we
hear from you.

Restorative Denver - People hurt by crime deserve a process that will help them heal. This restorative justice program seeks to repair the harm to the victim and the community caused by criminal acts. This voluntary program offers rehabilitation for the defendant (rather than incarceration) and healing for the victim (rather than continued trauma and suffering). Our office partners with The Conflict Center, a community-based non-profit organization, to administer this program.

Young Adult Diversion Program - Young adults are more heavily involved in the criminal justice system than any other age group. This program is designed to interrupt a young person's potential lifelong participation in criminal activity and ultimately ensure the public's safety. The mission of this program is to deter young offenders from committing new crimes by providing them with supervision and referrals to community resources.

The following programs further our mission to educate the community, prosecute criminals, protect the rights and interests of victims and seek fair and equal justice.

Education Initiative - Every day, students navigate social challenges and make critical life choices. DA McCann is committed to helping young people understand how the choices they make now may affect them later in life. DAs visit middle and high schools and talk about crimes that affect young people, such as sexting, cyber bullying and identity theft.

*Upholding
public safety
is one of the
most important
functions of
government, if
not the most
important.*

Domestic Violence Firearms Relinquishment Program

A deadly intersection exists between intimate partner violence and firearms. This program helps ensure the safety of the victim, the defendant and the community. At the time a defendant is charged with a domestic violence offense and a protection order is entered, they are legally required to relinquish all firearms and ammunition for temporary safekeeping. Because most offenders do not readily admit to having firearms, our specialized investigator researches the circumstances of domestic violence-offenders and follows up to ensure the firearms are relinquished.

Elder and At-Risk Abuse - The mistreatment, exploitation and neglect of Denver's older citizens and at-risk persons is a serious and growing problem. Many cases of abuse are not reported because victims are afraid or unable to tell police, family or friends about their abuse. Prosecuting these crimes is a priority for DA McCann which is why she created a dedicated unit to handle these cases. The unit also provides education and training on elder abuse and neglect to the community and law enforcement.

Human Trafficking - Human trafficking is the exploitation of a person for commercial sex and/or compelled labor using force, fraud or coercion. Stopping the trafficking of humans is a priority for DA McCann which is why she created a dedicated team to investigate and prosecute these crimes and provide support to victims.

Compensation Crime Victim - Crime impacts victims and survivors in many ways, some of which may be financial. Victims of crime may be eligible for assistance with some crime-related expenses, such as medical and mental health expenses, loss of wages, housing repairs and funeral expenses. To learn more about the Crime Victim Compensation program, call 720-913-9253 or email victimcomp@denverda.org.

