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Office of the District Attorney
Nineteenth Judicial District

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: July 28th, 2015
Contact: Kimberly Weeks • kweeks@co.weld.co.us • 970.356.4010 ext. 4702
Re: Creation of Weld County Critical Incident Response Team Announced

Greeley, CO – Weld County District Attorney Michael J. Rourke, along with the support of all of Weld County’s Police Chiefs, Coroner, and Sheriff, announced today the Weld County Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) has been successfully created. The intent of this project has been to form an investigative team that is representative of the entirety of Weld County. Once the team has been chosen and trained, the Critical Incident Response Team will be utilized to investigate incidents involving the discharge of a firearm by an officer in the line of duty, including circumstances in which that discharge causes death or injury. At the request of the involved agency’s CEO, the CIRT may investigate other use of force situations resulting in serious injury, as well as in-custody deaths or the death of a peace officer in the line of duty.

Investigators from around the county will lend their expertise while also planning for succession by newer officers. This process enables complete, thorough, professional, and transparent investigations while maintaining the traditional distinction between the District Attorney’s office and law enforcement. Once an investigation has been completed, the District Attorney’s Office continues to retain the ability to charge, present to the Grand Jury, or issue a report that the officer was justified in his or her conduct.

On Tuesday afternoon, District Attorney Rourke said “The Weld County District Attorney’s office, in conjunction with all of Weld County’s Police Chiefs, Sheriff, and Coroner, have come together in a very collaborative way to form and support this investigative team. Its creation is truly in the best interests of this community.”

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The following agencies have agreed to fully participate in the operations of the Nineteenth Judicial District Critical Incident Response Team:

Ault Police Department

Kersey Police Department

Brighton Police Department

LaSalle Police Department

Colorado State Patrol

Lochbuie Police Department

Dacono Police Department

Longmont Police Department

Eaton Police Department

Milliken Police Department

Erie Police Department

Nunn Police Department

Evans Police Department

Platteville Police Department

Firestone Police Department

University of Northern Colorado Police
Department

Fort Lupton Police Department

Weld County Coroner's Office

Fredrick Police Department

Weld County District Attorney

Greeley Police Department

Weld County Sheriff's Office

Johnstown Police Department

Windsor Police Department

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The filing of a criminal charge is merely a formal accusation that an individual(s) committed a crime(s) under Colorado laws. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. See Colo. RPC 3.6