



# Community Safety

*The Key Role of Cooperation Between  
State and Municipal Prosecutors*

*June 27, 2025*

**Denver DA**  
JOHN WALSH District Attorney

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John Walsh  
*Denver District Attorney*



Marley Bordovsky  
*Director  
Prosecution & Code Enforcement*



**Denver DA**  
JOHN WALSH District Attorney

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# Municipal & Local Public Safety Challenges

- Violent Crime
- Motor Vehicle Theft
- Retail Theft
- Drug-related Crime
- Quality of Life Crime

# Underlying Causes / Challenges

## Substance Abuse



## Mental Illness



## Housing





# Complex Problems Require Multi-faceted Responses

- No One-size-fits-all Approach
- Bring All Tools to Bear



# Collaborative Response in Denver

- Law Enforcement
- Prosecution
- Activation of Urban Areas
- Public/Private Partnerships
- Coordination with Social Services



# Collaborative Responses, Continued

- Treatment Courts / Specialty Dockets
- Area Restrictions
- Civil Tools: Nuisance Abatement, Licensing



# Collaboration in Prosecution

## Denver DA and Denver City Attorney

- Up-filing and Down-filing Cases
- Cross-deputization of City Attorneys
- Community Outreach / Communication
- Designated Attorneys as Strategic Partners with DPD and Community on Safety Issues





# Downtown Denver Safety Plan



**Denver DA**  
JOHN WALSH District Attorney





# Downtown Denver Safety Plan: Law Enforcement

Foot Patrols



Bike Patrols



Horse Patrols

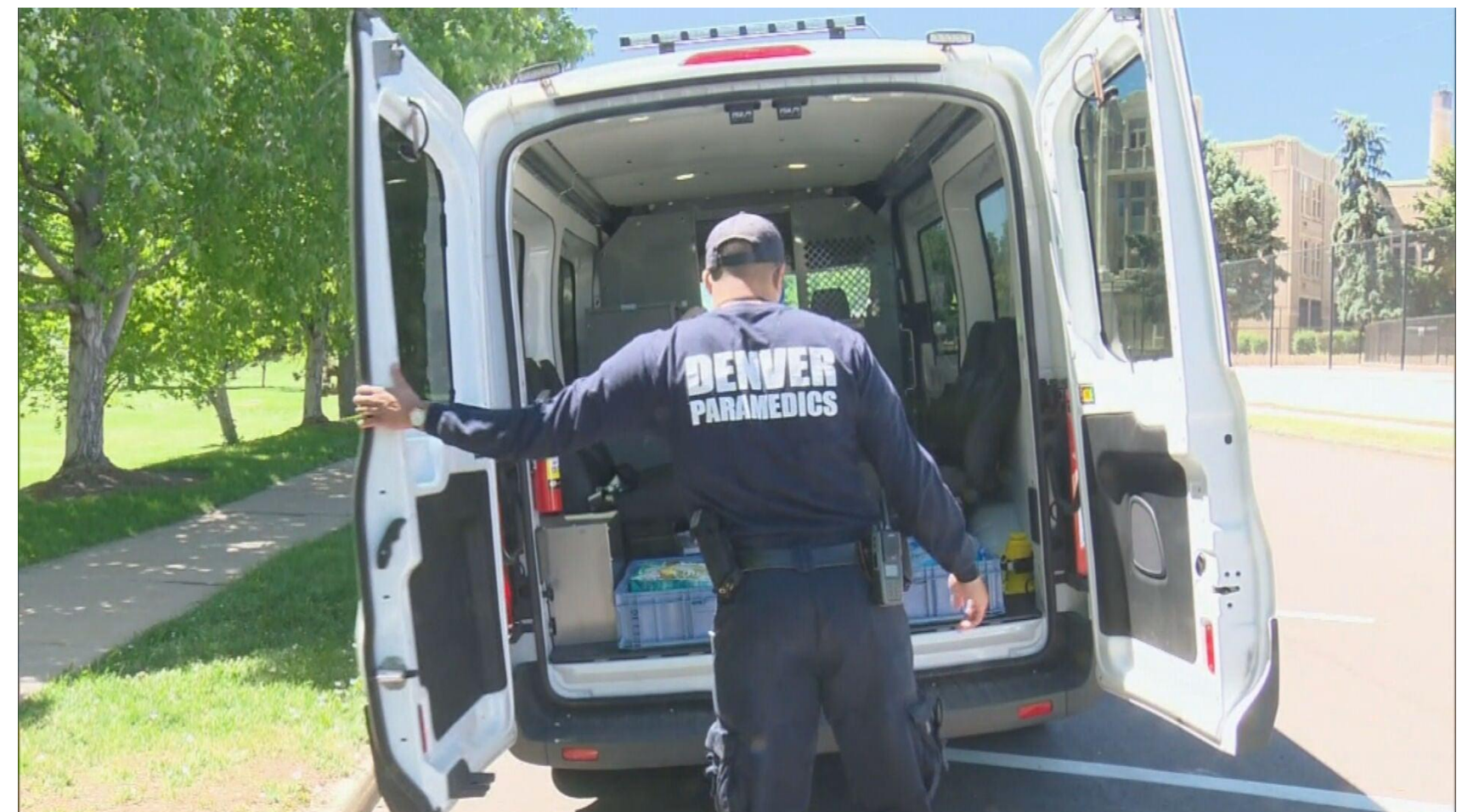




# Downtown Denver Safety Plan

## Public / Private Partnerships

- Downtown Denver Partnership – Outreach Workers Funded by Caring For Denver
- Expanded Downtown Mental Health & Substances Use Support Team
- Expanded Denver Fire Medical Unit
- Denver Health Bicycle Paramedics and Quick Response Units
- Infrastructure Upgrades and Cleanliness by City DOTI





# Downtown Denver Safety Plan: Prosecution

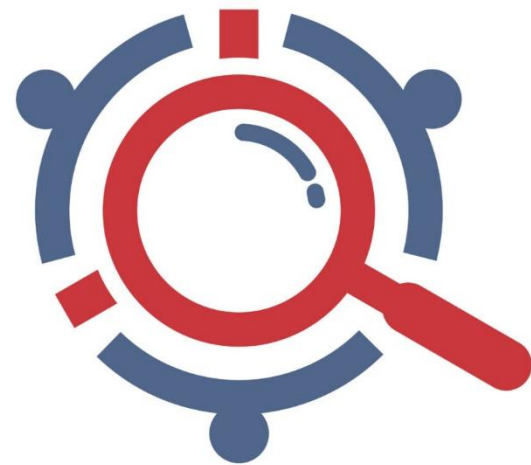
## Denver DA and Denver City Attorney

- Designated Chief Deputy District Attorney
- Focus From City Attorney's Office



# Violent Crime: Prevention

Gun Violence Awareness  
& Intervention Network (GAIN)



Place Network Investigations (PNI)



# Prosecution: Domestic Violence

Denver DA and Denver City Attorney

- Domestic Violence Cases
  - Up-filing and Down-filing
  - Triage
- Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee
- Police Academy Training

PACE Cases in 2024	
General Sessions	12,798
General Violations	665
Domestic Violence	2,126
Juvenile	562
Traffic Cases	29,985
Excise & Licenses	315
Nuisance Abatement	894
Mental Health	1,449
ERPO Cases	41

**Denver DA develops two new units in response to 12% increase in domestic violence cases last year**

The Family Violence Unit divides into two new units: one dedicated to domestic violence, and another assigned to child victims.



# Prosecution: Retail Theft

Denver DA and Denver City Attorney

- Organized Retail Theft Task Force



## Dillan Head Receives Prison Sentence for Retail Theft Scheme to Steal High-End Vacuum Cleaners

DENVER — Denver District Attorney John Walsh has announced that Dillan Head was sentenced today to six years in prison for stealing high-end vacuum cleaners and then selling them online for money or drugs. In March, Head pleaded guilty to one count of robbery.



# Prosecution: Motor Vehicle Theft

Denver DA: Regional Motor Vehicle Theft Task Force



## Thieves stole at least 190 vehicles in car theft, drug smuggling operation in Denver, DA says

The Denver District Attorney's Office said thieves used technology that reprograms key fobs to steal cars, including those at Denver International Airport.



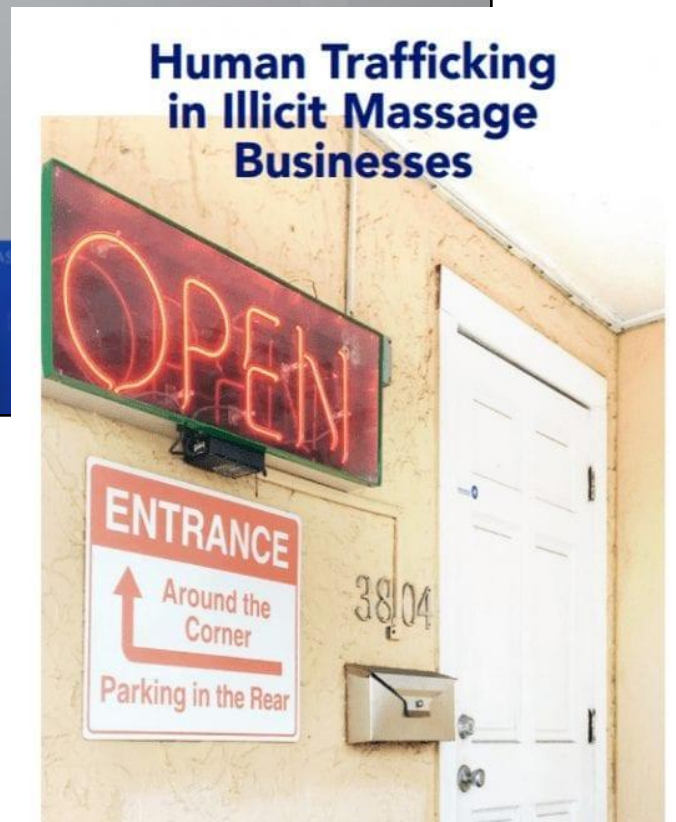
Photos of a stolen grey Dodge 2500 recovered in Pueblo. Methamphetamine, heroin, and \$16,450.00 located in vehicle.



# Prosecution: Human Trafficking

Denver DA and Denver City Attorney

- Human Trafficking
  - Prostitution
  - Illicit massage businesses





# Prosecution: Quality of Life Crimes

## Denver DA and Denver City Attorney

- Area Restrictions
- Trespassing and Trespass Agreements

### AREA RESTRICTIONS IN STATE CASES (DM1 and DM2)

#### **I. Do you want an area restriction on this defendant?**

- Is this person a consistent problem in this area?
- Is the area restriction reasonably related to the offense?
- Have you gotten a lot of citizen / community complaints about this person?
- Does this person consistently ignore trespass warnings / citations?
- Remember, an A.R. cannot be just for punishment.
- Does the person live or work in the area? If so, we can still do an A.R. but we'll have to be creative about the parameters.
- Overall, give us a good, solid reason as to why this person needs an A.R.

#### **II. Writing the P.C. statement**

- Put the A.R. request right on the complaint at the end of the PC narrative.
- Give us as much information as you can to support the request.
  - Examples would be things like "this is D's third shoplifting contact at this location," or
  - "[this defendant] has been warned/trespassed/been a problem at this location for six months"; or
  - "this store is one of the top three shoplifting problem locations in the District";
  - Then add "area restriction requested for the following parameters: \_\_\_\_\_"
- You are giving the prosecutors and the judge reasons to issue the A.R.
- What geographic area?
  - A block area: "500 – 900 block of 16<sup>th</sup> Street mall and 17<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Street"
  - Certain parks: "Civic Center Park"; "Skyline Park", etc.
  - General: "Auraria Campus"
  - The area description needs to be specific so the A.R. is enforceable and gives the person clear notice about where they cannot be

# Prosecution: Civil Tools

## Denver DA and Denver City Attorney

- Public Nuisance Abatement Ordinance
- Denver Methamphetamine Abatement Partnership (DMAP)
- Motel Task Force



KSL Investigates: Denver motel task force  
could be model for Salt Lake City



# Prosecution: Mental Health Tools

## Denver DA and Denver City Attorney

- CAO Mental Health Unit
  - ERPO Petitions
  - Mental Health Holds
  - Emergency Commitments
- Competency & Treatment Courts



### Types of threats listed in Colorado 'red flag' petitions

Court records show that the strong majority of Extreme Risk Protection Order petitions involved reported threats against others.

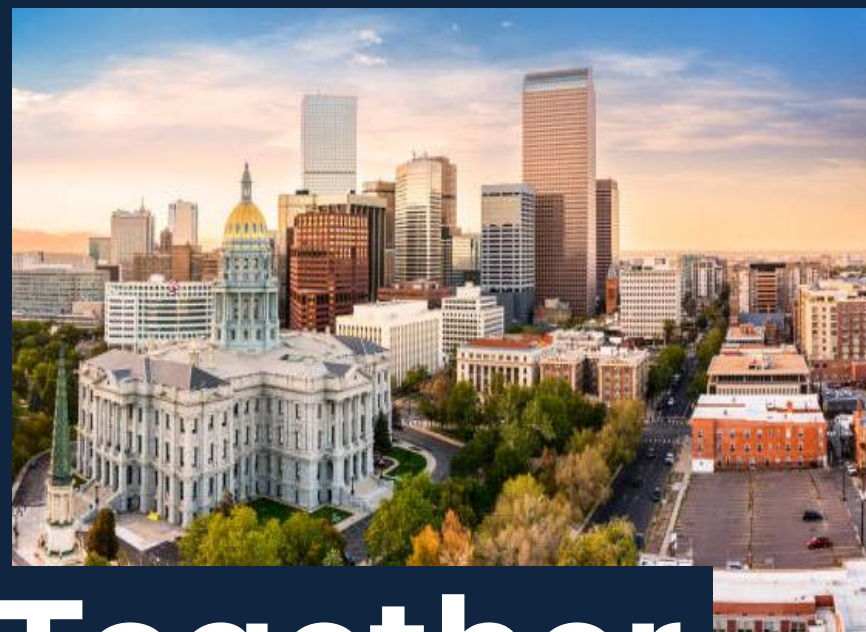
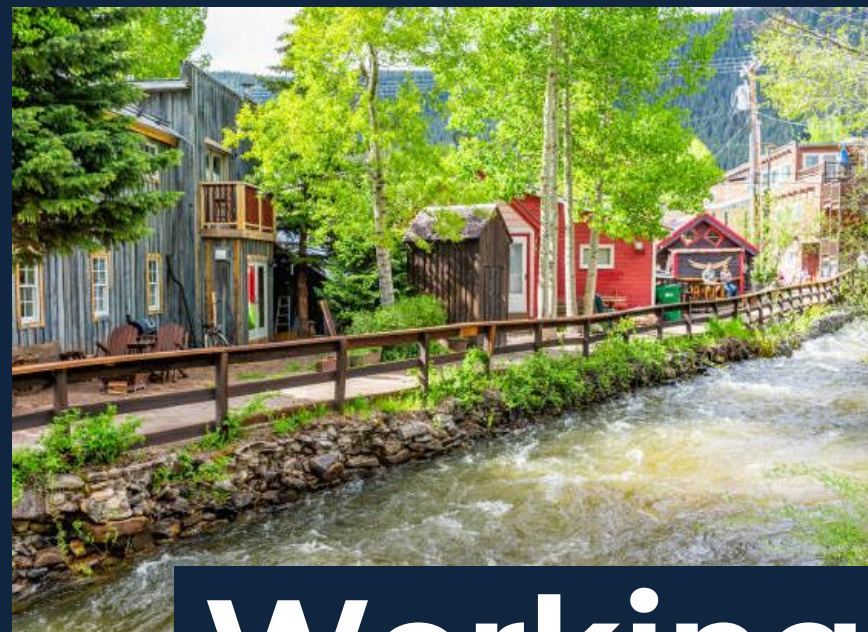


Many cases involved multiple types of threats, creating overlap. Data based on review of public records.

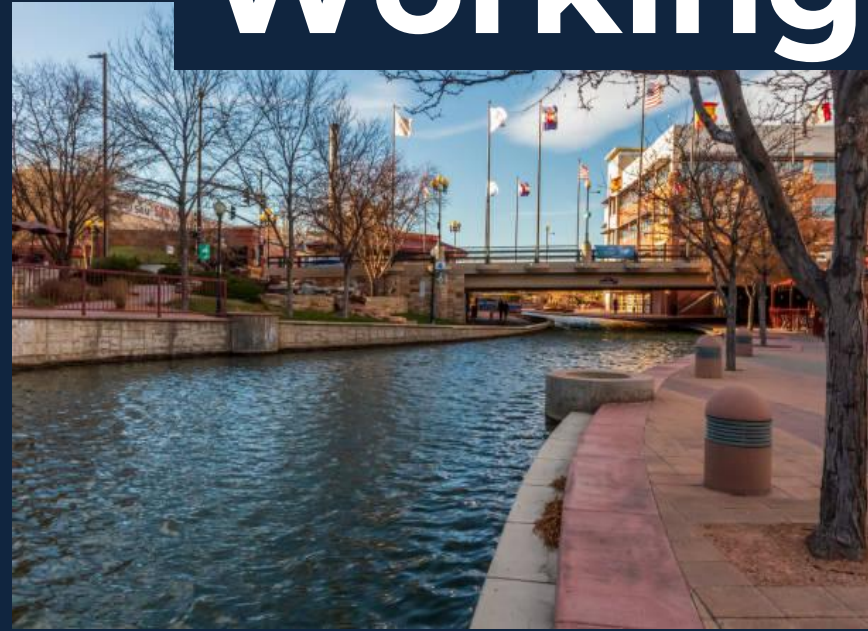
Chart: Andrew Kenney/CPR News • Source: Colorado Public Radio

 Colorado Public Radio





# Working Together





# THANK YOU

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Questions?

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