



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Michael T. Dougherty, District Attorney

For Immediate Release
February 23, 2021

Contact: Shannon Carbone
Phone: 303-441-3804
scarbone@bouldercounty.org

**Press Release – District Attorney’s Office Announces
Driver’s License Diversion Program**

The District Attorney’s Office recently developed a Driver’s License Diversion Program. This progressive and innovative program is designed to ensure drivers take immediate steps to properly address issues with their license and insurance, while reducing the criminal justice footprint in their lives. Individuals who accept responsibility and provide proof of a valid license, insurance policy, and registration will have their cases dismissed. This will apply to both Boulder and Longmont cases.

In years past, these cases would linger in the criminal justice system, causing individuals to have to return to court on multiple occasions while, possibly, continuing to drive illegally. The additional fines and fees for individuals charged with these offenses only perpetuate the challenge for unlicensed drivers, particularly for the low-income members of our community. It is in the best interest of all drivers to ensure that other drivers are licensed and insured.

Through the Driver’s License Diversion Program, our office identifies certain low-level charges for the Driver’s License Diversion Program. Individuals must have been eligible for their license at the time of the offense or within 30 days to be eligible for diversion. Cases involving accidents or crashes are not eligible. Eligible cases will be identified as soon as the DA’s Office receives a summons and a designated member of the DA’s Office contacts eligible individuals to expedite the process and enroll them in the program. For those who are unable to successfully complete diversion, they will have to come to court and resolve the case. This diversion program will increase the efficiency in resolving these cases and help people get their licenses back faster.

Chief Trial Deputy District Attorney Christine Rinke stated, “It is our goal to ensure the safety of all drivers on the road and we believe this is best accomplished by quickly compelling everyone to obtain a valid license and insurance. In our experience, the financial hurdles many citizens must overcome to obtain a valid license are significant and it is our goal to increase community safety without contributing to the cycle of these financial burdens.”

District Attorney Michael Dougherty stated, “I appreciate Chief Deputy DA Christine Rinke working with our Diversion team to develop this important and innovative program. It will ensure the right outcome in these cases, but with far less time and financial burden for the individuals involved. It will expedite the process for every driver to have a license and insurance, while limiting the impact of the criminal justice system on their lives. Traffic safety is a priority for this office.”