Adams County

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February 23, 2009

John Suthers Office of the Attorney General 1525 Sherman Street, 7th Floor Denver, CO 80203

Re: Homicide Assistance Unit

Dear Attorney General Suthers,

I tender this letter in support of the Attorney General's Homicide Assistance Unit. As you know, I have a unique perspective in my experience with the Homicide Assistance Unit. I am not only a District Attorney who has sought and received the assistance of this Unit, but under Attorney General Salazar, I supervised the unit. In both roles, I know the great value provided by the Homicide Assistance Unit – including assistance on unsolved homicides.

When I supervised the Homicide Assistance Unit, we assisted on numerous homicide cases throughout Colorado. We assisted on recent murders and on cases that had been unsolved for a number of years. We assisted both urban and rural jurisdictions on these cases.

As a local District Attorney, I have also requested the assistance of the Homicide Assistance Unit. Even though our office has over 50 attorneys, the experience and perspective of the Unit's investigators and prosecutors have been very helpful. This included assistance with my application to the United States Supreme Court to reinstate the death penalty an Adams County jury imposed in the case of *Robert Harlan*.

In conclusion, the Attorney General's Homicide Assistance Unit is a great asset to prosecutors throughout Colorado. The Unit assists with both solved and unsolved homicides. The Unit does this in a very cost effective way. Many jurisdictions have these types of cases occur infrequently. Therefore, it is efficient to be able to call in these state resources when needed. Therefore, it makes no sense to quit funding this Unit under the guise of providing state resources to assist with unsolved homicides.

Please contact me if I can provide additional information concerning the value of your Homicide Assistance Unit.

Sincerely,

Don Quick

District Attorney Seventeenth Judicial District