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# Prosecution and Code Enforcement

January 21, 2026

“We lead with integrity, compassion, and commitment, and work together with the community to improve the quality of life in Denver.”

# Functions of the Department of Law

The Department of Law shall exercise all functions of the City and County of Denver as to:

Appearing on behalf of the people of the City and County of Denver in all actions and proceedings involving the alleged violation of any Charter provision, ordinance or rule and regulation of the City and County of Denver.

**Denver Charter § 6.1.3**

# PACE Structure

## FOUR trial courtrooms

- CAO handles 100% of municipal cases filed
- Budget reductions significantly impacted the PACE team, but we are now working to re-staff these courtrooms with 3 attorneys each

## TWO arraignment courtrooms

- 2100 is the in-custody arraignment courtroom
- 2100 courtroom runs seven days a week
- Staffed with one attorney and one victim advocate
- Ensure compliance with the Municipal VRA

## TWO traffic courtrooms

- All day Mondays
- Half-day Tuesdays and Wednesdays
- CAO staffs every traffic docket

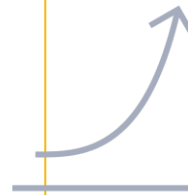
## ONE juvenile courtroom

- Only ½-day once a week
- With budget reductions, CAO can only staff this docket with a rotation of attorneys from the regular trial courtrooms

# Case Statistics



PACE handled over 14,300 municipal cases in 2025



2% increase over 2024 which saw a 12% increase over 2023



Of those, 2,529 were domestic violence (up 19% from 2024)



Municipal JV cases decreased by 6%

Denver County Court Case Filing Statistics

# PACE Structure

## Department of Licensing & Consumer Protection

- CAO provides legal support to DLCP
- Drafts ordinances – cannabis, liquor, cabaret, commodity metals
- Drafts final decisions
- Handles licensing hearings

## Public Nuisance Abatement Team

- Provides legal support for the DPD PNAU team
- Handles civil PNAU cases

## Mental Health Team

- Handles involuntary treatment for persons with mental health and substance use disorders, and IDD
- Handles all ERPO cases for Denver

## Neighborhood Partnership Team

- Works directly with community members, agencies, and city council to solve issues that impact Denver's neighborhoods.
- Commodity Metals, DMAP, DHTF

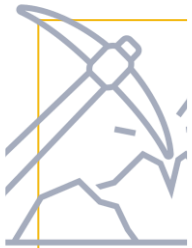
# Case Statistics



33 residences tested positive for methamphetamine contamination above regulatory levels



48 ERPO cases where individuals were found to present a threat to themselves or others and firearms were removed



Assisted in crafting a collaborative approach to challenges around commodity metals theft



1,326 individuals received the mental health treatment they needed

PACE Case Management System

# Municipal Case Filings are increasing

- **2025:**

- 14,312 municipal cases (up 2% from 2024)
- 32,615 traffic cases

- **2024:**

- 14,025 municipal cases (up 12% from 2023)
- 29,985 traffic cases

- **2023:**

- 12,485 municipal cases (up 19% from 2022)
- 33,486 traffic cases

# GV Cases

Animal Control

Zoning

Fire Code

Building Code

Health Code



# Dog Bite/Attack and Neglect

- **Denver Animal Protection**

- **Goal: Consistent, fair enforcement using available tools**

- Focus on behavior change, not permanent separation.
- Consider the facts:
  - Attack on pet or person
  - Level of injury
  - Circumstances of incident/ prior history

- **Approach: Ensure community safety**

- Use voluntary compliance where possible
- Resolve at lowest level
- Apply standardized investigation guide

- **City Attorney's Office**

- **Goals:**

- Ensure community safety
- Seek behavior change
- Seek more responsible ownership

- **Approaches:**

- Work closely with DAP
  - Subject matter experts
  - More familiar with history of owners/animals
- Seek restitution for victims
- Craft case resolutions geared toward education and behavior change rather than punishment

# Voice of Victims

- We are also the **voice of victims**.
- We stand in the gap for those who were the target of crime through no fault of their own, those who have an increasingly smaller voice in the criminal justice system.
- Victims who can be impoverished or experiencing homelessness and who also have suffered trauma.



# Domestic Violence – Pain and Injury



**Municipal DV cases are  
SERIOUS.**

This victim was beaten so  
badly she went deaf in one  
ear.

22GS003723

# Domestic Violence – Pain and Injury

In another case, the defendant got drunk and began punching the victim in her head, screaming at her to get her out of their home. She had been hiding from him because he becomes so violent when drinking.

The results: severe pain and visible physical injuries on the victim.



# Domestic Violence – Pain and Injury

- The victim was beaten on her head and face by her boyfriend as he was accusing her of cheating. She received a black eye, a bloody nose and bruising on her face and arms. Four days later, the victim had a seizure which was attributed to the initial beating.
- In another case, the defendant “just pushed” the victim. He split the victim’s knee open.



# Domestic Violence – Pain and Injury

- Victim had been clean and sober for two years, employed.
- Dated the defendant only a few months.
- He began following her, forcing himself into her home and assaulting her.
- Friends and strangers intervened, and he assaulted them.
- Eventually, she stopped asking for help and people stopped intervening because the defendant was so violent.
- He was arrested three times, but charges didn't deter him.
- Pretrial placed him on GPS in the third case, and an hour after defendant was released, he violated the GPS.

23GS002628, 23GS003067, 23GS003111

# Domestic Violence – Strangulation

PACE routinely prosecutes cases involving strangulation which have been refused by the DA's Office.

- Strangulation causing victim to lose consciousness
- “I was so terrified! I lost control of my bowels. I had to wear turtlenecks until my bruises healed.”
- In 2025, the CAO handled 28 cases involving strangulation.

# Threats Cases

- “So, he was blocking me from going [into my car]. So, then I just waited. And then, I pulled my window down a little bit ‘cause he wanted to talk. And then he got mad, so he punched my window because I didn’t wanna pull it down lower. Then he said, ‘Go get the f\*\*\* in my house! So then I can strangle you to death. Then I can strangle the kids, both of the kids, and then myself and just kill all of us and end it tonight!’”
- “He beat me and threatened to cut off our children’s fingers – in front of them.”
- “He threatened to rape me when my pants were down.”



# Wrongs to Minors



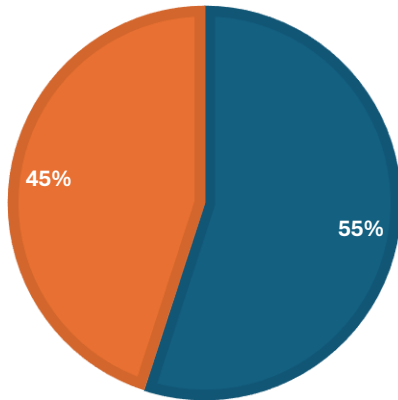
“The only thing my dad abused more than the alcohol was my mom. And me.”

# DV Cases Involving Assaults

## These are not just “loud arguments”

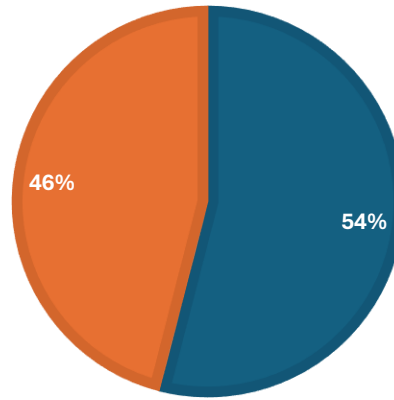
2023

■ DV w/Assault ■ DV other



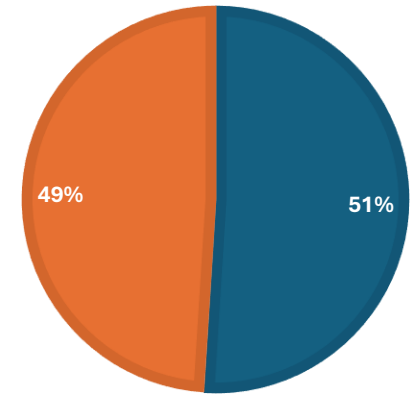
2024

■ DV w/Assault ■ DV other



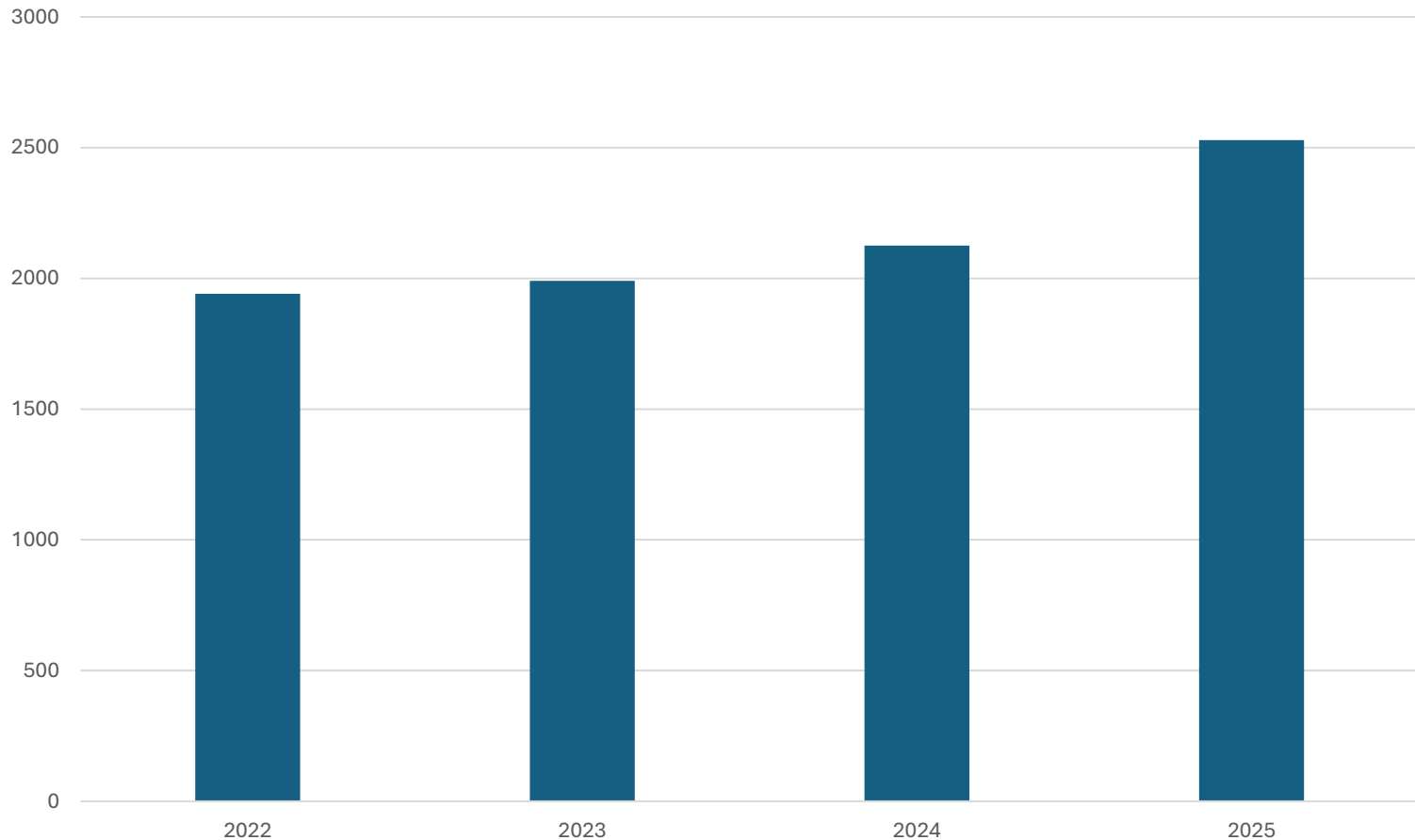
2025

■ DV w/Assault ■ DV other



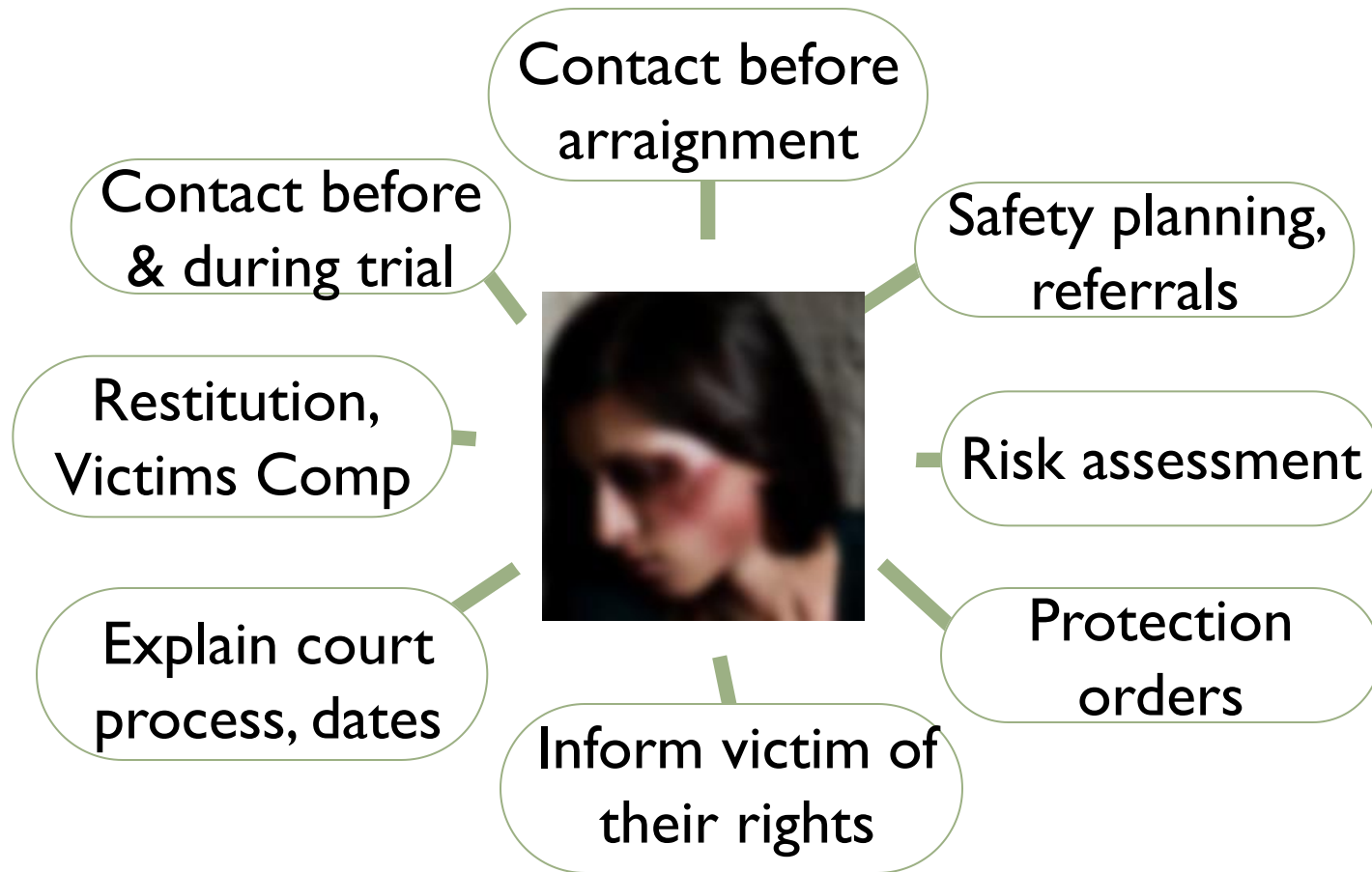
# Prosecution and Code Enforcement

# Domestic Violence Caseloads Rising: Increasing Number of Victims Impacted



**Prosecution and Code Enforcement**

# Victim Services



# Victim Services

- Safety planning, risk assessment
- Referrals to community resources
- Warrant outreach
- Trauma-informed care
- Elder abuse advocacy
- Explain court events
- Grocery cards, hotel stays
- Bilingual & bicultural advocacy
- Transportation to court
- VRA compliance
- Assist with Victims Compensation
- Explain & assist with restitution
- Meet victims in civil protection order court
- Accompany victims in court (arraignment and trial)
- Resources for City employees
- Assist with applications for rent assistance
- Link with food assistance
- Scam education & prevention

# Impact to Victims

- “This crime as affected my life like I never thought possible. I have literally been living in fear since this violent incident has occurred.”
- “I never go anywhere alone because I’m terrified he is lurking in the shadows waiting for me. Waiting to slit my throat or bash my head in like he threatened to do in December.”
- “I am convinced he is capable of seriously injuring me or even killing me.”
- “I’m not here for revenge, but for accountability and closure.”  
*(from a victim who was attacked by a stranger in a DIA elevator)*
- “Thank you for making me feel heard.”

*All quotes taken directly from victims and victim impact statements in municipal DV and assault cases.*

# Juvenile Docket

- Our juvenile docket is designed to reach juveniles to provide them (and their families) with support and resources to keep them out of the State criminal justice system.
- It was designed as a helping docket.
- Diversion is the most effective resource we can offer for these youth and their parents.

# Juvenile Docket

2020		2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
Age	#of cases	Age	#of cases	Age	#of cases	Age	#of cases	Age	#of cases	Age	#of cases
10	4	10	7	10	5	10	5	10	2	10	3
11	10	11	4	11	6	11	13	11	4	11	5
12	37	12	15	12	35	12	56	12	23	12	19
13	52	13	30	13	57	13	75	13	63	13	39
14	65	14	47	14	69	14	104	14	117	14	69
15	104	15	62	15	77	15	94	15	125	15	83
16	114	16	77	16	78	16	114	16	116	16	87
17	177	17	74	17	82	17	94	17	97	17	81
18	2					18	4	18	6	18	1



# Alternatives to Citation

- Cases on the juvenile docket have been going down over the past year.
- The CAO has been working with DPD and the OSEI Diversion Program to expand the Alternatives to Citation (ATC) Program that DPD started in the schools.
- The ATC Program is intended to divert youth accused of criminal conduct before they ever see the inside of a courtroom.
- And they can still get the support and amazing opportunities provided by the Diversion Program run by Kevin Lwango and his team.



**CAO has been working to find creative, supportive solutions for both the youth, their families, and the victims**

- Diversion is offered in over 90% of our youth cases
- Majority of youth are accepting Diversion
- JV case numbers are going down, offerings for Diversion are going up
- More and more victims are saying they're okay with diversion being an option



# COMMUNITY

- We are not just a prosecutor's office.
- We are so much more.
- We are involved in our communities, and we collaborate with all stakeholders to craft creative and innovative solutions to community issues.
- **Outreach Court** – we helped build this docket in 2016 with the Denver County Court, Alice Norman with OMPD, Safety, and the Denver Rescue Mission
- **Wellness Docket** – we have been involved in every version of a wellness docket helping those with mental health and/or substance use challenges find resources, housing, and a different path
- **Fresh Start Program** – designed by the Denver DA's Office to help people clear outstanding warrants so they can resolve cases and move on with their lives. CAO has been involved in this from the beginning – helping to create and implement it.

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**Motel Task Force**

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**Commodity Metals Ordinance**

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**Interagency Graffiti Group**

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**Denver Forensic Collaborative for At-Risk Adults**

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**Denver Hoarding Task Force**

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**Denver Methamphetamine Abatement Partnership (DMAP)**

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**Good Neighbor Agreements**

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**Neglected and Derelict Buildings**

# Community Engagement

State-wide training on domestic violence, sexual assault, and financial exploitation in later life

District level DPD trainings

Community training on scam identification & prevention

Extreme Risk Protection Order Trainings

Launched the Denver Domestic Violence Collaborative in 2024

Collaborate with the Rose Andom Center



## Prosecution and Code Enforcement



# Community Engagement

- Pride Parade since 2021
- Extreme Community Makeover projects
- Denver Brushoff Graffiti Removal and city beautification projects



# Courtrooms to Classrooms

- PACE has partnered with the DA's Office for over 10 years on the "Courtrooms to Classrooms" program
- Attorneys and paraprofessional staff go into fifth-grade classrooms every month for an entire school year
- Presentations about the justice system, decision-making, and guest speakers
- Year-end field trip to Denver courts to conduct the trial of Goldilocks for her alleged breaking and entering of the three bears' home





# PACE

We work to protect the community, to give a voice to victims, to seek equal justice for all, and to improve the quality and fairness of criminal justice on behalf of the people of Denver.

