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DA Summer Stephan Releases Midterm Report Highlighting 50 Key Reforms & Accomplishments

Rape Kit Backlog Cleared, Diversion Programs Expanded, Marijuana Convictions Expunged, Addressed School Threats and Hate Crimes, Implemented De-escalation Training

District Attorney Summer Stephan today released a comprehensive Midterm Report detailing 50 specific initiatives, programs and reforms that have been achieved under her leadership as elected DA thus far and a glimpse into what's coming in the near future.

Halfway through her first term, the District Attorney— leading and working alongside a dedicated and diverse DA team— has cleared San Diego's rape kit backlog, increased support and services for crime victims, tripled the prosecution of hate crimes, created multiple opportunities for people to be diverted away from jail and onto a better path, and established innovative programs focused on helping some of the most vulnerable in San Diego County— those with mental illness, the elderly and our youth.

This Midterm Report documents the journey of “*Transforming Criminal Justice in San Diego County: A Strategic Approach Focused on Innovative Solutions.*” It provides an inside look into the unique mission of a DA's Office, which is charting a path of responsible reforms that upholds the rights of victims, the rights of the community to be safe and the rights of those who commit non-violent crime to access second chances and fair treatment.

[Click here to see the DA's Midterm Report.](#) [Click here to see the video.](#)

“I listened with an open heart and mind to the voices in the community to create our new mission, which retains the excellence of the past but boldly reforms previous inequities that produced an over reliance on incarceration,” said District Attorney Summer Stephan. “I've replaced them with evidence-based treatment programs that address the root causes of non-violent crime, such as mental health and addiction, in order to forge effective and humane solutions. I am excited to share the innovative programs and initiatives our team has launched during my first two years as your elected District Attorney.”

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Some of the accomplishments outlined in Midterm Report include:

WORKED TO CORRECT INEQUITIES IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

- Expanded innovative county wide diversion programs for adults and youth
- Proactively removed marijuana convictions from an individual's record
- Enacted bail reform based on risk not wealth
- Worked to interrupt the 'school to prison pipeline' by reforming the Juvenile Justice System
- Launched new Unit committed to undoing unduly harsh prison sentences.

ADDRESSED MENTAL HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

- Created a Blueprint for Mental Health Reform that addresses the intersection of homelessness, mental health and criminal justice
- Initiated Mobile Crisis Response Teams that respond to people in mental health crisis instead of police
- Funded de-escalation training for every police department to better protect the lives of community members and officers

INCREASED SUPPORT OF CRIME VICTIMS

- Held Crime Victim and Survivor Summit to identify gaps in victim services
- Teamed up with Rady Children's Hospital to address child abuse
- Rolled out a new app to help victims of domestic violence find a shelter bed quickly
- Launched a new human trafficking prevention education for students
- Partnered on prevention of opioid overdoses campaign

ADDRESSED SCHOOL THREATS, RAPE KITS AND HATE CRIMES

- Led and funded testing of all untested sexual assault kits
- Established an online tool for the public to report school threats and hate crimes in the wake of anti-Asian hate
- Developed a protocol with school districts to prevent acts of targeted violence

KEPT THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE MOVING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- Worked collaboratively to reinvent the criminal justice system reduce the local jail population
- Supported the county with hundreds of Coronavirus contact tracings
- Sounded the alarm about the importance of re-opening schools amid a disturbing rise in reported online exploitation and increased child abuse

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About the San Diego County District Attorney's Office

The San Diego County DA's Office prosecutes all felony crimes in the county and misdemeanor crimes committed outside the City of San Diego. The office files about 40,000 criminal cases a year and balances prosecution with numerous crime prevention programs. District Attorney Summer Stephan leads the office of more than 1,000 dedicated employees who pursue fair and equal justice, and support victims daily across San Diego County.

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