



# DenverDA

Mitchell R. Morrissey, District Attorney - Second Judicial District

201 W. Colfax Avenue, Dept. 801, Denver, CO 80202

Bus. Phone: 720-913-9000  
Fax: 720-913-9035

## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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Contact: Lynn Kimbrough, 720-913-9025

### **DENVER USED AS A MODEL FOR DNA BURGLARY PROJECTS**

Law enforcement agencies in Indianapolis are starting a DNA Burglary Project, according to a recent article in the Indianapolis Star. Mayor Bart Peterson is confident that the legislature will approve more than \$375,000 in funding, as the city will be hiring two additional scientists and purchasing lab equipment for the project.

The article cites Denver as a model for Indianapolis' program. It notes Denver's success in catching "prolific burglars," or burglars responsible for an average of 243 cases annually. The program has been responsible for charging more than sixty such criminals. Since November of 2005 when the project began, over 500 additional burglary cases have been investigated. Denver District Attorney Mitchell Morrissey has filed 159 new cases based on DNA Burglary Project evidence. There have been 165 individual matches to the national DNA database (CODIS).

Officials from Orange County have also contacted the Denver District Attorney's Office, as they gather statistics in preparation for the launch of their own DNA burglary program. Denver's DNA Burglary Project is supported by a grant from the National Institute of Justice which runs out in October.

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The filing of a criminal charge is merely a formal accusation that an individual(s) committed a crime(s) under Colorado laws. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. *See* Colo. RPC 3.6