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NEWS RELEASE –

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NO CHARGES WILL BE FILED IN EAST HIGH CHEERLEADING EXERCISE INCIDENT

The Denver District Attorney's Office will not file criminal charges in connection with an East High School cheerleading practice which resulted in an injury to one cheerleader.

The decision follows a detailed investigation conducted by the Denver Police Department over the past several weeks, which included dozens of interviews of cheerleader team members, parents, school personnel, and others.

After advising the family of the injured cheerleader and a small group of other East High cheerleader families of her decision in a meeting Saturday afternoon, DA McCann issued the following statement:

“The video of the incident involving the injured student that has been widely disseminated is painful to watch. However, after a very thorough and careful review of all of the evidence gathered in the investigation and the statements of many members of the cheerleading squad, I have concluded that the evidence does not support the filing of criminal charges. In order to prove a charge of criminal behavior, the case must be proved beyond a reasonable doubt.

There are differing opinions regarding the use of this technique of cheerleading training. While I believe the technique should not be used, that is not the standard of proof for a criminal case. Most of the cheerleading squad participated in the technique that day, and there are differing accounts of the circumstances.

The individual involved should not be a coach in high school sports and he no longer is. The principal and athletic director of the school have retired and resigned. The message should be clear that this type of technique has no place in high school cheerleading coaching. The bad judgment of the coach, however, does not constitute a prosecutable crime.”