



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Leading Criminal Justice Leaders Call On Kansas Officials To Fund Unit to Review Past Convictions and Correct Injustices**

*More Than 50 Current and Former Elected Prosecutors and Police Chiefs Rally Behind DA Mark Dupree's Efforts to Establish a Conviction Integrity Unit in Wyandotte County, Kansas*

A group of 54 current and former elected prosecutors, state attorneys general, and law enforcement leaders banded together today to call on the Kansas City Board of Commissioners to take immediate action and release funding requested by District Attorney Mark Dupree for the creation of a Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU) in the Wyandotte County DA's Office. Already active in more than 30 jurisdictions, CIUs are a nationally recognized best practice for reviewing and addressing past convictions that raise concerns about the integrity of the justice system.

Calling out local law enforcement's "misguided" opposition to DA Dupree's proposal, current and former Police Chiefs and elected prosecutors from around the nation signed on to the letter explaining that "reviewing and correcting past injustices is squarely within the DA's role, and indeed his obligation." Signatories include **30 current elected DAs and State's Attorneys**, many of whom **have CIUs in their own offices**, such as **Eric Gonzalez** (Brooklyn, NY), **Kim Ogg** (Houston, TX), **Kim Foxx** (Chicago, IL), **Cy Vance** (New York, NY) and **Jeff Rosen** (San Jose, CA), **current and former state attorneys general** including **AG Karl Racine** (District of Columbia) and **Former AG Jim Petro** (State of Ohio), and **a dozen current and former police chiefs/commissioners and Sheriffs** including **Chief Chris Magnus** (Tucson, AZ), **Chief Sylvia Moir** (Tempe, AZ), **Chief Tim Lentz** (Covington, Louisiana) and **Commissioner Branville Bard** (Cambridge, MA).

DA Dupree recently announced plans to establish a CIU to formalize a review process for credible claims of innocence or official misconduct in past cases—200 such claims have already been received by his office. The impetus for this unit was DA Dupree's months-long examination of a high-profile case that led to the exoneration of Lamonte McIntyre, a teenager who spent 23 years behind bars for a crime he did not commit. A CIU would speed up the

processing of other cases raising similar concerns about past injustices. As the letter notes: “victims are safer—and we prevent further victimization—when communities trust that their law enforcement officials seek the truth rather than a ‘win.’”

Local law enforcement leaders in Kansas have rallied against Dupree’s efforts – opposition that has stalled funding for the unit. The Kansas City Board of Commissioners will decide as early as this week whether to release funds for the CIU, as requested by DA Dupree.

“Anyone who cares about fairness and public safety should support efforts to correct the mistakes made by our justice system,” said **Miriam Krinsky, Executive Director of [Fair and Just Prosecution](#)**, a national network of elected prosecutors committed to change and innovation that organized the letter. “A prosecutor’s core responsibility is the pursuit of justice and truth in every case. Allowing injustices to continue erodes public trust in the rule of law, which is the bedrock of our criminal justice system.”

“CIUs are an increasingly common way for prosecutors, who have an ethical obligation to remedy instances of injustice, to review not only claims of innocence, but also of law enforcement misconduct or due process violations,” said **District Attorney Jeff Rosen**, a signatory on the letter and one of the first DAs to establish a CIU. “Our CIU has been instrumental in identifying and guarding against miscarriages of justice and promoting enhanced accountability and transparency.”

According to the [National Registry of Exonerations](#), there have been more than 2,240 exonerations since 1989, when the advent of DNA technology opened a new door for proving innocence.

“We should applaud prosecutors’ efforts to re-examine cases where the integrity of a conviction is at issue and recognize that everyone in our justice system bears the responsibility for a miscarriage of justice,” said **Police Chief Chris Magnus**. “That is why I have joined dozens of law enforcement leaders in voicing support for DA Dupree’s efforts to deliver a more fair justice system and promote a safer community.”

The full statement is available [here](#).

#### **LIST OF SIGNATORIES**

**Aramis Ayala**

State Attorney, 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Florida

**Branville Bard**

Commissioner, Cambridge, Massachusetts Police Department

**Diana Becton**

District Attorney, Contra Costa County, California

**Sherry Boston**

District Attorney, DeKalb County, Georgia

**Joseph Brann**

Former Chief, Hayward, California Police Department

Former Director, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Department of Justice

**Scott Colom**

District Attorney, Sixteenth Circuit, Mississippi

**Brendan Cox**

Former Chief, Albany, New York Police Department

**Michael Dougherty**

District Attorney, 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, Colorado

**Kimberly Foxx**

State's Attorney, Cook County, Illinois

**Kimberly Gardner**

Circuit Attorney, City of St. Louis, Missouri

**Sarah F. George**

State's Attorney, Chittenden County, Vermont

**Sim Gill**

District Attorney, Salt Lake County, Utah

**Eric Gonzalez**

District Attorney, Kings County, New York

**Mark Gonzalez**

District Attorney, Nueces County, Texas

**Christian Gossett**

District Attorney, Winnebago County, Wisconsin

**Robert J. Hoffman**

Former Chief, Plainfield, Connecticut Police Department

**John Hummel**

District Attorney, Deschutes County, Oregon

**Lawrence S. Krasner**

District Attorney, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**William Lansdowne**

Former Chief, San Diego, California Police Department  
Former Chief, San Jose, California Police Department  
Former Chief, Richmond, California Police Department

**Tim Lentz**

Chief, Covington, Louisiana Police Department

**Chris Magnus**

Chief, Tucson, Arizona Police Department

**James Manfre**

Former Sheriff, Flager County, Florida

**Beth McCann**

District Attorney, 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District, Colorado

**Kenneth Mighell**

Former U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Texas

**Sylvia Moir**

Chief, Tempe, Arizona Police Department

**Stephanie N. Morales**

Commonwealth's Attorney, Portsmouth, Virginia

**Marilyn J. Mosby**

State's Attorney, Baltimore City, Maryland

**Melissa W. Nelson**

State Attorney, 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Florida

**Jerome O'Neill**

Former Acting U.S. Attorney, District of Vermont  
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Vermont

**Kim Ogg**

District Attorney, Harris County, Texas

**Jim Petro**

Former Attorney General, State of Ohio

**Channing Phillips**

Former U.S. Attorney, District of Columbia  
Former Senior Counselor to the Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice  
Former Deputy Associate Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice

**Richard Pocker**

Former U.S. Attorney, District of Nevada  
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Nevada

**Karl Racine**

Attorney General, District of Columbia

**Ira Reiner**

Former District Attorney, Los Angeles County, California  
Former City Attorney, Los Angeles, California

**Jeff Rosen**

District Attorney, Santa Clara County, California

**Marian Ryan**

District Attorney, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

**Tori Verber Salazar**

District Attorney, San Joaquin County, California

**Dan Satterberg**

Prosecuting Attorney, King County, Washington

**Ronal Serpas**

Co-Chairman, Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime & Incarceration  
Former Superintendent, New Orleans, Louisiana Police Department  
Former Chief, Metropolitan Nashville, Tennessee Police Department  
Former Chief, Washington State Patrol

**Carol A. Siemon**

Prosecuting Attorney, Ingham County, Michigan

**Mark Spawn**

Former Chief, Fulton, New York Police Department

**Norm Stamper**

Former Chief, Seattle, Washington Police Department

**Darrel Stephens**

Former Chief, Charlotte-Mecklenburg, North Carolina Police Department

**Carter Stewart**

Former U.S. Attorney, Southern District of Ohio

**David Sullivan**

District Attorney, Northwestern District, Massachusetts

**Betty Taylor**

Former Chief, Winfield, Missouri Police Department

**Raúl Torrez**

District Attorney, Bernalillo County, New Mexico

**Cyrus R. Vance Jr.**

District Attorney, New York County, New York

**Andrew Warren**

State Attorney, 13th Judicial Circuit, Florida

**Lynneice O. Washington**

District Attorney, 10th Judicial Circuit, Alabama

**Roy L. Austin**

Former Deputy Assistant to the President for Urban Affairs, Justice and Opportunity, White House Domestic Policy Council

Former Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice

Former Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Columbia

**Chiraag Bains**

Former Senior Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice

Former Trial Attorney, Criminal Section, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice

**Miriam Aroni Krinsky**

Executive Director, Fair and Just Prosecution

Former Assistant U.S. Attorney, Central District of California

Former Criminal Appellate Chief and Chief, General Crimes, Central District of California

Former Chair, Solicitor General's Criminal Appellate Advisory Group

*Fair and Just Prosecution is a national network of elected prosecutors working towards common-sense, compassionate criminal justice reforms. To learn more about FJP's work, visit [www.fairandjustprosecution.org](http://www.fairandjustprosecution.org) or follow us on Facebook [@FairAndJustProsecution](https://www.facebook.com/FairAndJustProsecution).*