

May 7, 2010

Commissioner Janet Rowland  
Mesa County, Board of County Commissioners  
544 Rood Ave.  
P.O. Box 20000  
Grand Junction, CO 81502-5037

Dear Commissioner Rowland,

In a recent public statement, you report that the budget for the Weld County District Attorney's Office has increased 50% during the past five years. You have significantly overstated the Weld County DA's budget increase, and we would like to take this opportunity to correct your error.

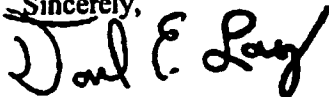
From 2005 to 2009, the actual budget for the Weld County DA's Office has gone from \$3,391,674 to \$4,429,720. That is an increase of 30%. The Weld County DA's budget increased less than the Mesa County DA's budget over the same five-year period. Interestingly, as a Mesa County Commissioner, you supported the 32% increase in the Mesa County DA's budget.


During that same time frame, however, it should also be noted that:

- the number of District Courts in Weld County increased 100%
- the number of County Courts in Weld County increased 50%
- crime in Greeley has decreased 40%
- crime in Weld County has decreased 50%
- and, the population of Weld County from 2000 to 2009 increased 40.8%


The Weld County Commissioners are impressed with the return on investment we have made in our District Attorney's Office and would not approve budget increases if we didn't believe it was to the benefit of our county. Please correct the public record at your earliest convenience so that there are no misunderstandings.


Sincerely,

  
David Long  
Weld County Commissioner  
District 1

  
Douglas Rademacher  
Weld County Commissioner  
District 2

  
Barbara Kirkmeyer  
Weld County Commissioner  
District 3

  
Sean Conway  
Weld County Commissioner  
At-Large

  
William Garcia  
Weld County Commissioner  
At-Large