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Media Advisory

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Harris County DA's Office Attacks Insurance Fraud, Saving Taxpayers Millions

Harris County District Attorney Pat Lykos announced an exciting new collaboration between the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) and the District Attorney's Office Wednesday, in an initiative that will save millions of dollars in payouts based on fraudulent claims.

The Texas Department of Insurance is providing and funding a prosecutor and investigator who are specially trained to combat insurance fraud. Insurance fraud includes filing claims for non-existent injuries, for medical treatment not provided, "injury claims" for staged accidents, phony disability and damage claims.

Newly-appointed Assistant District Attorney Jesse McClure will be working with the Financial Crimes Division, in an intensive effort to fight insurance fraud. Assisting him will be Max Cox, an experienced law-enforcement officer, who will investigate these crimes.   This will maximize limited resources and allow for a concentrated attack on fraud.

Lykos credits TDI Commissioner Eleanor Kitzman, who embraced this effort, saying, "Harris County taxpayers are getting a valuable tool in their arsenal against insurance fraud. By uncovering these insurance scams, we can prevent future crime."

District Attorney Lykos added, "Harris County formerly led the nation in staged accidents. Not anymore. This initiative will keep us on top of emerging trends in fraudulent activity. With these new dedicated resources, we can identify and arrest the ringleaders, including those involved in organized crime. We are sending the message to fraudsters, 'Don't mess with Harris County!'"

In Texas alone, losses for identified, referred fraud cases totaled $23.8 million in 2011. This figure does not include the millions of dollars in undiscovered or unreported losses.

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