

For Immediate Release – April 19, 2021

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The 8th Judicial District Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) exists to provide fair, unbiased, and comprehensive investigations into law enforcement officer use of force incidents in a manner which is responsive to community interests in integrity and transparency.

In response to its review of the June 26, 2020 incident involving the arrest of Karen Garner by the Loveland Police Department, the District Attorney's Office requested an official CIRT review of this incident. Involved and investigating agencies have agreed that an independent criminal review is appropriate, and an investigation of the incident will occur. The investigation will be led by Fort Collins Police Services and will be assisted, as needed, by investigative staff from the District Attorney's Office and other partner agencies, including the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which will also assess the matter.

Public trust in law enforcement and the criminal justice system is vital to the safety and fairness which we all endeavor to ensure in our communities. The robust, unbiased, and transparent procedures used in the 8th Judicial District CIRT protocol will not only ensure there is accountability for any potential criminal behavior but will also give our community the information and framework with which to evaluate our performance and have faith in the results of our investigations.

A copy of this letter has been posted to the District Attorney's web page at www.larimer.org/da/relations.htm and/or www.larimer.org/da/critical-incident-response-team.

A criminal investigation does not indicate any crime has occurred. A subject of an investigation is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. *See Colo. RPC 3.6*