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**Contact: Claire Crouch**  
**Dallas County District Attorney's Office**  
**214-653-3600 (Office)**  
[Claire.Crouch@DallasCounty.org](mailto:Claire.Crouch@DallasCounty.org)

**For Immediate Release: District Attorney Creuzot Fulfills Campaign Pledge, Revisits Theft Policy**

Let me begin by thanking the Dallas County community for entrusting me once again with the job of Criminal District Attorney. The last four years have been the highlight of my professional career, and I am so honored and humbled to continue with our mission of making Dallas County a safer and more just community for all.

One policy of my first term was not prosecuting the theft of necessary items like food, diapers, or baby formula that amounts between \$100 and \$750 (Class B Misdemeanor) unless evidence shows the theft was for economic gain. This policy targets a very narrow class of offense and was instituted in an effort to decriminalize poverty, but instead, the policy has been misrepresented and politicized, and those who have done that have created a sense of mistrust about this office. Keep in mind, thefts under \$100 are Class C Misdemeanors and do not come to the DA's office, rather they are handled in Municipal Court.

The following is just a small sampling of things my office has been unfairly accused of as a result of this policy:

- Allowing the thefts of televisions, motorcycles, and catalytic converters: FALSE
- Telling the police not to file any catalytic converter case: FALSE
- No longer accepting *any* misdemeanor theft cases: FALSE
- Business closures: FALSE

With all of this in mind, during the campaign, I made a pledge to revisit this policy if re-elected.

Through data analysis and conversations with community organizations, retailers, and independent loss prevention specialists, I found the policy had zero effect on crime in the county – positive or negative. I have come to the understanding that this policy is more aspirational than realistic and rather than helping those in need, I have watched that population, and primarily people of color, be blamed for a rise in crime.

I want the people of Dallas County and our partner police agencies to know that I have heard their concerns, and I will change when change is needed, so to that end, I am rescinding the policy. My assistants and I will use our discretion to prosecute those who deserve it and utilize our strengthened Pre-Trial Intervention programs and other community resources to get vulnerable populations the help they need. The policy change is effective immediately.

Only by working together can we guarantee that Dallas County remains a safe place to live and work. Thank you for your trust, and I look forward to what we can accomplish together in the years to come.