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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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District Attorney's Office Partners with Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Texas
Partnership Demonstrates DA's Commitment to Preventive Solutions against Crime

(DALLAS – June 29, 2007) – Today, Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins will formally announce a new partnership between the District Attorney's Office and Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Texas (BBBSNT). The primary goal of the partnership is to help break the cycle of incarceration among the more than 150,000 at-risk children in the metropolx. The announcement will take place **Friday, June 29, 2007, at 2:30 p.m. CDT in the Central Jury Room on the 1st Floor at the Frank Crowley Courts Building located at 133 N. Industrial Blvd., Dallas, Texas 75207.**

“When I ran for office, one of things I campaigned on was putting preventive and rehabilitative measures in place as a proactive solution to help the citizens of Dallas County stay out of our criminal justice system,” said Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins. “Of the 150,000 plus at-risk children in the metro area, 70,000 have one or more parents who have gone through our justice system. We want to do whatever we can to ensure these children don't make some of the same bad choices their parents have made and end up in prison. So I am excited to join forces with Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Texas and will be encouraging all of our staff at the DA's Office to get involved and make a difference in our community.”

Employees at the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, including prosecutors, investigators and support staff, will be encouraged to sign up and volunteer as mentors. The mentoring can either be school-based or community-based. District Attorney Watkins has personally committed to signing up for BBBSNT's Big Family Plan, which provides the opportunity for a family to mentor a child together and include that child in their everyday family activities.

“Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Texas appreciates District Attorney Craig Watkins' vision and proactive approach to youth development and prevention of juvenile delinquency that leads to a life of crime in Dallas County,” said Charles Pierson, chief executive officer, Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Texas. “We are proud to partner with the DA's Office on volunteering and one-to-one mentoring of our youth as the preventative solution to this problem.”

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Big Brothers Big Sisters North Texas Partnership

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Founded in 1927, Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Texas (www.bbbsnt.org) is a volunteer organization that provides children support, guidance, friendship and fun by matching them to adult role models. The agency's mission is to enrich, encourage and empower children to reach their highest potential through safe, positive one-to-one mentoring relationships. Big Brothers Big Sisters serves this mission through a professional staff that carefully works with both the volunteers and the children to ensure that the experience of Big Brothers Big Sisters is dynamic, fulfilling, memorable and fun for both the child and the volunteer.

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