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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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District Attorney's Office Expands Impact Offender Program to Include Garland Cases

(DALLAS – February 15, 2008) – Effective immediately, the Dallas County Criminal District Attorney's (DA) Office is expanding its Impact Offender program to include cases from the Garland Police Department. The program, which was implemented with the Dallas Police Department in October of 2007, has thus far proven successful in accomplishing the goal of expediting cases to trial for non-violent repeat offenders.

“We look forward to working with Garland Police Chief Mitch Bates and his staff on their impact offender cases and having continued success with the program,” said Craig Watkins, Dallas County District Attorney. “Now that Garland is on board, we hope that more of our judges will see the value in this program and join us in our efforts to prosecute impact offender cases swiftly and efficiently. While Judge Snipes and Judge Chatham are doing a wonderful job to assist us in expediting these cases to trial, we could continue expanding the program to include other area law enforcement agencies and therefore, be so much more effective if more judges would get on board.”

The impact offender program specifically targets career offenders who commit multiple offenses, such as burglary and robbery, and are nuisances to the community. These are offenders who have been through the criminal justice system numerous times and have had several chances at rehabilitation and reform, yet they continue to prey on the community every time they are released back into the community. Under the District Attorney's program, impact offender cases are expedited to trial within 60 days of the DA's Office accepting the case.

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