



NEW RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Additional Funding Awarded to the District Attorney's Office

The Douglas County District Attorney's Office was awarded additional funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) earlier this month. These funds will be used to help secure a prosecutor and investigator, who will concentrate on handling the serious violent felony case backlog created by the COVID-19 pandemic. A serious violent felony case consists of charges of murder, armed robbery, kidnapping, rape, aggravated child molestation, aggravated sodomy, or aggravated sexual battery.

"We are extremely grateful for this funding opportunity to help the District Attorney's Office continue our efforts to keep our community safe. We are thankful for the leadership of Chief Superior Court Judge William "Beau" McClain, who was designated by the Administration of Courts to coordinate our local grant application process" said Douglas County District Attorney Dalia Racine.

"Judge McClain's ardent efforts have brought numerous resources to our community to support the entire criminal justice system, which is enhancing the work that our office and others are doing. We are optimistic that the Board of Commissioners will see the benefit and impact of these additional resources and continue this important funding once the grant is completed. This will allow Douglas County to continue to move forward in serving our citizens with excellence."

The Douglas County District Attorney's Office previously received ARPA funding for three prosecutors to help with the case backlog and the increase in serious violent felonies that is occurring across the country. With this additional funding, the Office will be able to hire another prosecutor and an investigator, who will concentrate on addressing the backlog of serious violent felonies. The District Attorney's Office has been working diligently to diminish the case backlog overall and these additional hires will help continue the office's efforts to minimize the backlog more effectively and efficiently.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 provides financial assistance to eligible state, local, territorial, and tribal government agencies to help reverse the negative impacts created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The State of Georgia has designated \$110 million of the state's \$4.8 billion ARPA funds towards resolving the case backlog, which occurred statewide due to courts being closed during the judicial emergency put in place during the pandemic. To date just over \$44 million has been awarded state-wide to various judicial circuits. The funds awarded have been used to help with hiring personnel, rental costs for temporary spaces to hold court, supplies and materials, and as well as staff to help with the administration of the grant funding.