

Denton County  
Commissioners Court  
1 Courthouse Drive, Suite 3100  
Commissioners Courtroom  
Denton, TX 76208

April 26, 2024

Dear Commissioner Members,

I was recently a victim of a violent crime in Denton. Because of this, I became aware of dangerous and I believe, an unlawful policy with the Denton Police Department and the District Attorney's Office.

Right now Denton Police have a policy that allows any Sgt. to ignore, hide, and disenfranchise any victim of any crime. This is not only outrageous, it is also unlawful according to the Texas District & County Attorneys Association. (see attached PDF)

A couple examples of what Denton Police is allowed to do and is doing:

Right now, in Denton County, a Rape victim can be told I think you deserved it, so the Sgt. can say I think the DA will probably not prosecute, so we are NOT going to investigate or notify the DA.

A child can be sexually assaulted and the PD can say, we don't think the DA will prosecute, so we are NOT investigating and are not notifying the DA's Office.

This current policy is ripe for abuse, it is dumbfounding that it was ever approved. I am truly shocked that this is approved by policy.

For the record, I am not some anti cop antifa idiot. I am a retired Police Detective with over 30 years of service. This policy is against the separation of powers and removes any checks and balances over the Police. As a retired officer I am disgusted with such a broad overarching policy that removes all accountability from the Police Department.

*According to law, Locally elected county attorneys, district attorneys, and criminal district attorneys are responsible for prosecuting crime in Texas. The Texas Constitution divides state government into three distinct branches: Legislative, Executive, and Judicial. Our state constitution grants the authority to prosecute criminal cases to locally-elected district and county attorneys and places those officials within the judicial branch of state government.*

What Denton Police has done is removed the District Attorneys (Judicial Branch) out of the equation, and now the Police (Executive Branch) can refuse ANY victim of any crime due process or review by Elected District Attorneys. Any Sgt, now has the power to tell any victim the DA will not prosecute so we are doing nothing. Not only are they doing this, they

are not keeping records and refusing to provide those records under the Freedom Of Information Act, to further conceal their abuses. One Sgt. told me they do this "50 Times A Day" and it is normal procedure.

I have contacted several Sgts with the PD, a Lieutenant, and emailed the Chief who supports and defends this policy. This policy not only re-victimizes Victims but it allows the Police to hide and conceal violent crimes so they are not reported to anyone including the DA. If I was a lazy incompetent cop I would love this policy, it gives me no accountability, I don't have to do my job and investigate any crimes and I get to choose who I like and don't like as victims. What an outrageous policy. As a dirty cop, if I don't like Black victims, I can say, sorry the DA will not prosecute, we are not investigating and not sending to the DA, and there are no records or oversight of this. Outrageous!

If any citizen knew that this was going on, I would expect outrage. I am going to do my best to expose this and maybe help future victims from this experience and hopefully some of you will put a stop to this.

I have tried to address it up the chain and it has fallen on deaf ears because it benefits the Police Department and aids them in not doing their job. Maybe one of you can get answers that they are unwilling to provide to me.

Please take the time to look into this and protect future victims. This not only destroys trust in the Police, it promotes rouge police conduct with NO checks and balances from the DA. I cannot imagine how many poor helpless victims have been re-victimized by this policy.

*Current Policy: 3. Inactivating Cases*

*Cases are inactivated by the respective Criminal Investigation Bureau Supervisor, either upon initial screening, or after assignment to a Detective. Sergeants or their designee will inactivate cases after initial screening when the case lacks indicators that further investigation is likely to yield a prosecutable case.*

I will be forwarding a copy of this conduct to the Attorney General, my Elected State Representatives and the Governor's Office. I can't believe this is allowed in Texas and once the word gets out I am sure other lazy Police Departments will try and do the same thing.

Thanks for your time to review this, I am more than willing to discuss this over the phone, in person, at a Board Meeting or whatever you require.

Respectfully,

Rick Gore