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Statement

Colorado Judicial Branch
Mary J. Mullarkey, Chief Justice
Gerald Marroney, State Court Administrator

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Denver Police Requested Decision on Laptop Prosecution *State Needed More Time to Investigate Computer Records*

The following statement was issued by Carol Haller, legal counsel for the judicial branch, to the Denver Police Department on February 20, 2007.

“After reviewing police reports and discussing the issue with the State Court Administrator, Gerald A. Marroney, the branch position is to ask that no prosecution take place at this time. We have the computer back and are reviewing the computer’s internal records. I am legal counsel for the Judicial Branch.”

At the time Ms. Haller’s statement was issued, the Denver police department wanted a decision with respect to pursuing criminal charges for theft of the missing laptop. The police originally asked for a decision on Friday, February 16, 2006, but the State Court Administrator’s Office asked for time to review the computer prior to making any decision. When the State Court Administrator’s Office realized the data on the computer would take more time to analyze, the statement above was provided to police, with the understanding that the position may change if more information was revealed.

Mr. Manzanares returned the computer to Denver District Court on Friday, February 16, at which time computer technicians began to examine what an unauthorized user may have done with the laptop. The State Court Administrator’s Office wanted to take the necessary time to investigate both the theft and the use of the computer, while at the same time comply with the Denver Police Department’s request for a statement in order to allow them to provide the case to the District Attorney. There was never a concern that confidential information about court users had been compromised.

At no time did Mr. Manzanares receive any preferential treatment from the State Court Administrator’s Office.

The State Court Administrator’s Office continues to cooperate fully with the special prosecutor in the investigation.

Timeline:

Jan. 26: State court administrator employee reports laptop computer missing from Denver City and County Building. Police informed and report made.

Jan. 2007: Theft detection software installed in the missing laptop sends notification to an electronic monitoring center that the computer is logged on to the Internet, recording the Internet Protocol (IP) address.

Feb. 15: Police executing search warrant discover laptop is logging on at the home of Lawrence Manzanares and notify the State Court Administrator's Office of this fact. Denver police continue to investigate, including questioning Mr. Manzanares about the missing laptop.

Feb. 16: Laptop is returned to Denver District Court by Mr. Manzanares.

Feb. 20: Carol Haller, legal counsel for the State Court Administrator's Office, provides the requested statement to Denver police indicating the state court administrator does not wish to proceed with a prosecution at this time, pending a further investigation into the computer records.

Feb. 23: Laptop is taken by Jefferson County special prosecutor from the State Court Administrator's Office.

This information is provided as an e-mail service of the Colorado State Judicial Branch, Office of State Court Administrator, 1301 Pennsylvania Street, Suite 300, Denver, Colo. 80203. To discontinue this service or update your e-mail address, please respond to this message with your name, contact information and any comments.