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Media Advisory:

False and misleading information is being spread on social media regarding the practices of the Douglas County Sheriff's Office at the Douglas County Courthouse. In cooperation with our partners on the Douglas County Board, specifically Chairman Roger Garcia, it has been determined that the facts should be made clear regarding Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) interplay with DCSO courthouse operations.

Misinformation on such an important matter not only does a disservice to the topic itself, but can serve to disrupt court operations and justice. Everyone in our community is entitled to a safe and efficient justice system. It is important that defendants, crime victims, and witnesses do not make themselves absent of legal process due to false rumors.

Below, please find a series of facts regarding DCSO's policies and procedures as they pertain to courthouse operations:

- The Douglas County Sheriff's Office is tasked with maintaining safety and security at the Douglas County Civic Center / Courthouse complex.
- DCSO deputies and security officers adhere to the highest professional and ethical standards, guided by departmental policy and CALEA accreditation standards.
- DCSO personnel do not check IDs at Civic Center or Courthouse entrances, with the following exceptions:
 - Exceptions of when DCSO may be required to check IDs include; employees who need to show work identification to bypass security, individuals who are detained for bringing contraband into the building, or individuals who are being legally detained for a criminal investigation or active warrant. It is a lawful responsibility for a Peace Officer to arrest any individual with a known lawful warrant issued by a judge.
- DCSO court security officers and deputies do not have access to ICE databases, nor do DCSO staff have the legal authority to detain individuals at the courthouse for suspected immigration violations.
- DCSO is aware that ICE agents have been present in the courthouse complex in order to locate known adult criminal offenders. In those situations, DCSO Deputies will not participate in those arrests, but will be present to ensure the overall safety of everyone in the surrounding area. DCSO may be required to participate in an action if the subject has an active warrant signed by a judge, or the individual constitutes a real time public safety or security risk.
- Sheriff Hanson has communicated with local ICE leadership who have expressed that they have no plans to have a presence in Juvenile courtrooms.

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The Douglas County Sheriff's Office was established in 1856 and provides a full range of law enforcement services to unincorporated and incorporated areas of Douglas County. The DCSO has been CALEA accredited since 2006 and has been recognized with the CALEA® Accreditation with Excellence Award. We at the DCSO take pride in serving our community.

If you have any question in regards to this media release, please contact Spencer Head via email at spencer.head@douglascounty-ne.gov.