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ARAPAHOE COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

January 18, 2001

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The Office of the Arapahoe County Commissioners  
5334 South Prince Street  
Littleton, Colorado 80120

Dear Commissioners;

Owing to the fact that the Arapahoe County Commissioners provide both funding and oversight of the *Coroner and his office*, I feel it important that you be made aware of the superior quality of the operations conducted by the Arapahoe County Coroner's Office. I am pleased to take this opportunity to commend and express the appreciation of the Aurora Police Department for the exemplary efforts of Arapahoe County Coroner, Dr. Michael Dobersen.

Dr. Dobersen has become well known over the years to the Aurora Police Department and it's members for personifying the highest level of professionalism and medical expertise relating to criminal death investigations. He has established a superb working relationship with the detectives of the police department's Major Crimes Unit, and they rely heavily upon his vast experience and knowledge in the area of forensic crime scene investigations. In addition, Dr. Dobersen responds without hesitation at any time of the day or night, in order to assist our detectives at crime scenes involving death investigations.

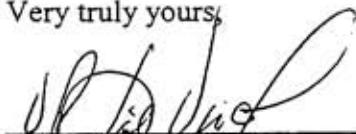
While they occurred some time ago, I believe the following two examples, which are unique in our history, will serve to exemplify Dr. Dobersen's superior quality of work and service to the law enforcement agencies with which he deals. During the Labor Day week of 1998, the city of Aurora experienced two horrific incidents that involved multiple murders which resulted in the deaths of eight victims. The first case occurred on Monday evening, and was greatly complicated by the fact that three different crime scenes and two jurisdictions were involved. The following Thursday evening, while Dr. Dobersen and his staff continued the previous Monday's complex medical/criminal investigation, a triple murder occurred in the city. Under his guidance, the coroner's office again tackled this massive investigative effort, in conjunction with Aurora Police detectives and Crime Scene Investigators.

Due in no small part to the thorough and meticulous investigative support rendered by Dr. Dobersen and his staff, both investigations resulted in the successful identification of suspects, and arrests were made in each case. Dr. Dobersen continues to play a crucial role in the future criminal court prosecutions of these cases. Several extraordinarily dangerous individuals were taken off the street as a result of the combined cooperative investigative efforts.

I could continue by citing more numerous and recent examples which involved child death investigations, several "officer-involved" shooting incidents that resulted in the death of criminal suspects, and other criminal death investigations. Suffice it to say that no matter the nature or scientific complexities of any investigation that Dr. Dobersen engages in, it is conducted to the highest possible standards.

On behalf of the Aurora Police Department and its members, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for Dr. Dobersen's continuing dedication to maintaining the maximum caliber of professionalism and community service. He will continue to serve as a distinguished example to those of us who serve in the criminal justice system, of the level of excellence to which we may all aspire.

Very truly yours,



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Verne R. Saint Vincent  
Chief of Police  
Aurora Police Department