



## **OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

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### **District Attorney Margaret Moore Announces the Addition of Online Complaint Form for Public Reporting of Excessive Use of Force Cases**

(Austin, TX) Travis County District Attorney Margaret Moore announced today that her office will be adding a citizen's complaint form to the District Attorney's website where citizens can report incidents involving excessive use of force by police officers.

The form, along with other important information about how cases are reviewed by the Civil Rights Unit within the DA's Office, can be found at <https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/district-attorney/office-divisions/civil-rights/cru>.

District Attorney Moore stated, "We have always encouraged citizens to make independent reports to our Office when they think they have been a victim of unlawful force by a public servant. But we are adding an electronic form to our website that will hopefully make the process easier for the public to access and use. It will also allow our prosecutors to review the complaints in a more efficient way." In addition to the new complaint form, the TCDA website sets out other helpful information including, annual statistics about the cases handled by the Unit, copies of declination letters issued in cases where prosecution is declined, a description of the special grand juries that are used specifically for civil rights cases, and a list of the community members who sit on the Civil Rights Advisory Council. The site also has a Frequently Asked Questions section and provides contact information for the Unit.

Moore explained further, "I think the common misconception is that these cases are easy to resolve and should be immediately presented to a grand jury. While I agree that the public is entitled to swift action and transparency to ensure justice for all sides, we have to make sure there is a thorough investigation into the facts of each case we receive. Sometimes this involves subpoenaing lab reports, phone records, ballistic reports, medical records, and other documents that are crucial to the case. It takes time to get these items from outside sources. To ensure the process is fair, we have to be able to anticipate the kinds of information the grand juries will want to know before we take a case before them. This is the same process that takes place in all felony cases."

Moore created the Civil Rights Division when she took office in 2017. It is the only division in the Office that reports directly to the District Attorney.