# OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY Orange County, California



## BUSINESS PLAN

Performance Measures 2012 Update

TONY RACKAUCKAS
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Mission of the Office of the District Attorney of Orange County is to enhance public safety and welfare and create a sense of security in the community through the vigorous enforcement of criminal and civil laws in a just, honest, efficient and ethical manner.

Successful pursuit of this mission requires sufficient resources. The Office's most crucial resource is a dedicated group of prosecutors, investigators, and support personnel committed to bringing justice to victims of crime and protecting the public's safety. Over 90% of the OCDA budget funds personnel. The operations of the Office are integrated and interdependent. The Office has been in a glide down mode for several years. In FY2009-10 to meet a reduced budget, the Office deleted 15 prosecutor, 29 investigative, and 27 support positions. Also in FY2011-12, as the result of funding shortages, 4 investigative and 1 support positions were deleted.

To offset the significant loss of staff, the Office introduced a variety of initiatives to reduce the resources required to prosecute certain types of cases, including a Deferred Entry of Judgment (DEJ) Program so that fewer prosecutors could handle greater misdemeanor caseloads. However, caseloads throughout the Office have reached a tipping point where further cuts are unsustainable and could directly endanger public safety.

This report provides an update on the Office's performance during the year 2011. The key performance measure for the Office of the District Attorney is the adult felony conviction rate.

### 2011 KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURE & REPORTING

**Felony Conviction Rate** is the Office's Key Performance Measure.

A key measure of success is maintaining a felony conviction rate of 90%. This measurable goal indicates the effectiveness of the filing decisions, trial preparedness, and trial performance.

#### What is the Measurement?

The conviction rate measures the percentage of filed adult felony cases resulting in conviction.

### Why Measurement is Important:

This measure directly reflects on the Office's ability to effectively represent the People of the State of California. Furthermore, this measure is of paramount importance to the community since convicting criminals brings justice to the victim and the community at large. Finally, convictions remove dangerous criminals from the community, require restitution be paid to the victim, and where applicable require environmental remediation.

### How are we doing?

The Office has continued to maintain an excellent felony conviction rate. The felony conviction rate for 2011 exceeded 90%.