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NAME: News Editors/ News Directors

FROM: The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office

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MEDIA RELEASE

SHERIFF TO BILL POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS FOR COSTS OF EXTRAORDINARY SECURITY MEASURES

As the 2012 political campaign cycle begins to gain momentum across Colorado, many national and statewide candidates may coordinate events, intended to attract participation by the community, in order to share their message and to earn the support of local voters. While planned political gatherings are critical to the implementation of effective campaign strategies, the events often place significant demands upon the limited resources of the local public safety organizations responsible for providing extraordinary crowd control, site security, emergency medical services and dignitary protection measures.

The safety of the people served is a critical responsibility, which is consistently accomplished by local Sheriff's Offices, Police Departments, Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services. Historically, the costs associated with extraordinary security measures (planning, personnel and equipment) related to pre-arranged political events have been provided through local or state government budgets. The costs of providing extraordinary security measures for planned political events has always placed an undue burden on the limited resources of local taxpayers. "Political campaigns that spend significant amounts of money for advertisement efforts, should certainly be capable and willing to pay for the costs of providing extraordinary security measures for their planned events," said Sheriff Robinson. Depending upon the length of the event, the profile of participating dignitaries, and required security measures, a typical 4-6 hour event could easily cost local taxpayers in excess of \$25,000.

Effective immediately, the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office will invoice all political campaigns for the costs associated with accomplishing the important public safety responsibilities of event planning, personnel deployment, and equipment usage related to providing extraordinary security measures for planned political/candidate events.

For additional information contact Sheriff Grayson Robinson at 720.874.4165.

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