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**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF TIOGA**

March 20, 2024

Martha Sauerbrey, Chair
Tioga County Legislature
56 Main Street
Owego, NY 13827

RE: 2021 Annual Report

Dear Chairwoman Sauerbrey:

Pursuant to your memo, please accept the following as the 2023 Annual Report for the District Attorney's Office.

As always, because of the large number of cases handled in the numerous town and village justice courts throughout the county, we are unable to keep gross statistics regarding the number of misdemeanor and vehicle and traffic cases that are handled by my office. However, it is estimated that we also handle several hundred felony and misdemeanor charges and over 10,000 vehicle and traffic charges every year.

Apart from the gross criminal statistics, I would like to provide you with some other information relating to this Office's activities in 2023:

- We have been tasked with the responsibility of prosecuting the Thomas Rath homicide, who was abducted in Tompkins County but eventually transported to Tioga County where he was eventually murdered. We have arrested over a dozen individuals involved in this and anticipate several felony trials over the next year.
- Recent decisions from the Court of Appeals analyzing the onerous Discovery reform statutes passed a couple of years ago have actually increased the demands on us and made it increasingly difficult to comply and get evidence admitted in court.
- Bail Reform continues to be an abject failure, and a driver of criminality. Compounding this is the manipulation of crime statistics by state and federal law enforcement authorities to further their political agenda.

- The storage, transfer and sharing of body camera footage has created a massive unfunded mandate, complicating discovery compliance, creating technical and IT issues and slowing the progression of cases as the attorneys now need to look at thousands of hours of footage.

Challenges for the upcoming year include navigating the pending homicide trials, dealing with a new homicide that just happened in February and, continuing to navigate the liberalization of the criminal justice system which heavily favors criminals at the expense of victims, the law abiding and the police.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kirk O. Martin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the top.

Kirk O. Martin