



**RYAN K. DESMOND**  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
5TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**RE: NOTICE REGARDING FELONY EVADING ARREST**

As litigators in the justice system, the District Attorney's Office prosecutes all manner of criminal activity. It is incumbent within our duty to prioritize and zealously apply the criminal laws to offenses that place the lives and well-being of our citizens at risk. As citizens themselves, we recognize that our law enforcement partners are often placed in positions wherein their personal safety is endangered, and we are proud of the courage they show in protecting our community from harmful criminal elements.

Some criminal conduct can endanger both the lives of our law enforcement officers as well innocent civilians and by-standers. Perhaps the most common of this type of criminal behavior is felony evading arrest, wherein a criminal defendant flees in a vehicle, often engaging in chases and pursuits to avoid arrest from law enforcement. These events are some of the most dangerous moments in our community. The criminal actor is placing the lives of themselves, their passengers and law enforcement personnel in direct risk. They are also endangering the lives of every innocent person who is lawfully traveling the roadways, often with their children and loved ones.

When applying the laws of the State of Tennessee to criminal conduct, this type of activity should be viewed with the strictest of scrutiny. If my office's analysis concludes that the evidence and facts establish that a defendant is guilty of this type of criminal activity, we will take a strict position on enforcement of these laws. Criminal actors should take notice that if they engage in this dangerous conduct that places the lives of so many in jeopardy, the consequences will be severe in as far as the law allows. Cases will not be reduced unless necessitated by the facts and circumstances, and when supported by statutory sentencing factors and guidelines, sentences for incarceration and consecutive sentencing in the Department of Correction will be sought.

Our office joins with our law enforcement partners to do all we can to ensure that our community remains the safe and welcoming environment we all call home.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. K. Desmond".

**Ryan K. Desmond**  
District Attorney General  
Fifth Judicial District