



Board Certified Criminal Law



CHRISTINA MITCHELL
38TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY
UVALDE AND REAL COUNTIES

PRESS RELEASE

On this, the one-year mark of the Robb Elementary mass shooting, I remain committed to my responsibility to seek a thorough and deliberate criminal investigation of that event.

I have refrained from public comment in strict compliance with my legal and ethical obligations. Like all Texas prosecutors, I am ethically prohibited from commenting on any ongoing investigation conducted by a law enforcement agency. For any prosecutor in Texas to publicly comment about ongoing criminal investigations is to conduct ourselves in contraposition to our charge to seek justice. It is also my ethical responsibility to make reasonable efforts to discourage law enforcement from making extrajudicial statements regarding any investigation.

My primary duty as the 38th Judicial District Attorney for Real and Uvalde counties is to see that justice is done in a fair and impartial manner to determine if actions in my jurisdiction rise to the level of a felony criminal offense. This review can only occur after all the facts and evidence regarding an event have been gathered properly and responsibly by law enforcement without bias, prejudice, or hasty conclusions.

We are all painfully aware of the consequences and the continued hurt to the families of the victims, the survivors and the entire Uvalde community when public statements have been rendered based on incomplete information.

To date, the Department of Public Safety Texas Rangers Division, in cooperation with the FBI and other state and federal agencies, continue to investigate the mass shooting at Robb Elementary school. I was optimistic about receiving the complete investigation by May, however, given the magnitude of this investigation, it is not surprising that the investigation is still ongoing one year after the tragedy. I am confident that the Texas Rangers are working diligently to complete this investigation in a thorough and deliberate manner.

Upon my receipt of the Texas Rangers' complete investigation, my office will then conduct a thorough review and then present any potential criminal charges to an Uvalde grand jury. I do not make prosecutorial decisions based on incomplete criminal investigations. An investigation is considered complete by a law enforcement agency when it is formally submitted to my office.

My office continues to meet and brief the families and provide status of the investigation to the best of my ability.

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I continue to be disappointed and dismayed by the release of crucial evidence to the media. This is not the way criminal investigations should be conducted. I cannot overemphasize that investigations of criminal matters are meant to be confidential to protect the integrity of the investigation and the constitutional rights of any suspect.

As District Attorney, I expressed my preference to the school district that the demolition of Robb Elementary be delayed until the conclusion of the presentation of the criminal investigation to an Uvalde County grand jury. The grand jury may want to see the layout of the school in relation to the evidence presented. It may also be important to temporarily maintain the physical building for experts in the criminal, civil, and administrative matters arising from the mass shooting to conduct their own analyses. Once the building is gone, that opportunity is permanently lost.

Following the tragic event, I, as the District Attorney, worked closely with state agencies and the Governor's office to secure state funding and counseling services for our victims, their families and the Uvalde community. I continue in this endeavor. The Uvalde County Resiliency Center opened at our permanent location in early May pursuant to Uvalde County's continued efforts to assist the citizens of Uvalde County and Batesville with the aftermath of the horrific event. In the Resiliency Center, there are five mental health agencies. All counseling services at the Resiliency Center are free of charge and I would strongly encourage all citizens of Uvalde County to visit the center and inquire about the services available. No one should ever feel they have to mentally or emotionally process this tragic event alone.

Lastly, I want to say that I ache for the families of the victims, the survivors, and my community. Although I am mindful of the criticism against me for declining public comment about the particulars of the ongoing investigation, I must remain steadfast in my responsibility to see that this investigation is conducted in such a manner as to withstand the inevitable scrutiny and critique which will be lodged upon its completion. The rule of law demands that any judgment against a person be made in accordance with the law; that is, that due process be administered in a fair and impartial tribunal in a determination of guilt, innocence, and punishment and that cannot be achieved unless and until we have endeavored to obtain a thorough investigation buttressed by fairness, integrity, and impartiality free from political and media pressures. In those endeavors, I can then secure justice for the victims, their families, and the citizens of Uvalde County.

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