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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
MAT HECK, JR.
SWORN IN FOR EIGHTH TERM

DAYTON, OH (1/4/2020) – Today, Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney Mat Heck, Jr. was sworn in to begin his eighth term of office. The Honorable Daniel G. Gehres, Judge of the Dayton Municipal Court, administered the Oath of Office.

During the ceremony, Prosecutor Heck stated that he has just as much excitement and enthusiasm today as he did during his first oath of office ceremony in August 1992. Prosecutor Heck discussed why he worked so hard to become an attorney, and more importantly, a prosecutor. Mr. Heck's father, Mathias Heck, Sr., was the Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney for 16 years. Mr. Heck realized years ago that being a prosecutor is a calling, and not just a job.

Mr. Heck noted that as the elected prosecutor, he is given the opportunity to help victims of crime who are seeking justice. He loves the feeling of accomplishment that comes from helping victims fight for their rights.

Speaking to his staff, Mr. Heck noted that, "As prosecutors, we have entrusted to us a responsibility much more arduous and different from other lawyers – to do and seek justice. Our responsibility is not to see simply how many convictions we can obtain. It is to put doing the right thing over and above what is easy and convenient. We are the gatekeepers to the criminal justice system."

Prosecutor Heck continued, "I am honored and truly appreciate being re-elected as your Prosecuting Attorney. I am truly humbled by the support of the community. As my staff and I begin this new term in office, we pledge to continue to make our community a safer place to live, work, and play."

Prosecutor Heck was first elected to office in 1992 and was uncontested in his race for re-election this past November.

During the past four years, the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office has been very busy. The Criminal Division of the office reviewed nearly 25,000 cases that were presented for felony charges by 65 various law enforcement agencies, resulting in over 17,000 new approved cases. Over 13,000 felony cases were prosecuted, with 82% of them resulting in a conviction of the highest indicted charge. Over the past four years, the attorneys assigned to criminal trial dockets had nearly 200 jury trials and over 100 bench trials. These numbers are even more remarkable when you consider that most trials scheduled to be heard in 2020 were continued to dates in 2021 due to the pandemic.

The Child Abuse Bureau, located at Montgomery County's Child Advocacy Center, CARE House, has assistant prosecutors and victim advocates who specialize in cases involving child physical and sexual abuse. The prosecutors and advocates there handled over 250 felony child abuse cases in the last four years.

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The Juvenile Division of the office reviewed nearly 6,100 cases, resulting in over 5,200 being accepted for prosecution. In addition, motions to transfer juveniles to be tried as an adult were filed on over 110 juveniles due to the serious nature of their crimes or their past involvement with the criminal justice system.

The Diversion Program returned hundreds of thousands of dollars in restitution to the victims of crime, while also helping first-time, non-violent offenders become productive and law-abiding citizens. The Criminal Non-Support section of Diversion collected over \$1,000,000 in court-ordered child support owed by non-custodial parents. The program has collected over \$13.5 million for the benefit of children since the program was established.

The Victim/Witness Division of the office provides crisis response services 24-hours-per-day, every day of the year to crime victims, especially those of violent crimes. During the past four years, the Division provided services to thousands of clients, and gave nearly 350 presentations to the community on topics including sexual assault, dating violence and online safety.

The Civil Division of the office provides legal advice and representation to other county elected officials, commissions, boards, and townships. During the past four years, the Division defended complex litigation in suits filed against the county in federal, state, and courts. In addition, the Division filed a very complex suit against opioid manufacturers and distributors seeking to recover money that taxpayers paid out for drug treatment programs, medical care, and other expenses the County experienced due to the opioid epidemic.

The Appellate Division, which handles appeals of trial court decisions in the Second District Court of Appeals, the Ohio Supreme Court, and the United States Supreme Court, has had a 92% success rate on prosecutor appeals filed, ensuring proper convictions are upheld.

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