



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Denver Police Crime Laboratory “Tops Out” *“Topping Out” of Crime Laboratory Signifies Structural Completion*

DENVER, CO — Friday, September 9, 2011 — Denver City Officials celebrated the “topping out” of the Denver Police Crime Laboratory Bureau (CLB). The topping out signifies that the last horizontal beam has been installed, thus representing the height of the building. The CLB, a project under the 2007 voter approved Better Denver Bond program, is scheduled for completion by summer of 2012.

The new, 60,000 square foot Denver Police Crime Laboratory will be significantly larger than the existing 14,000 square foot facility, which is currently housed in the Denver Police Administration Building. With the additional 46,000 square feet, DPD will be able to offer improved forensic and evidence-handling resources to scientists and investigators. Additionally, the building was designed to allow for flexibility as the laboratory’s needs evolve in the future.

“This new Crime Laboratory and its state-of-the-art technology will better serve our investigators and ultimately the entire Denver community,” said Mayor Michael Hancock. **“With the current crime lab handling over 10,000 cases in 2010, the new lab will not only improve working conditions for our Police Department, but it will also provide better equipment and resources for handling these cases. We owe a huge debt of thanks to Denver voters for supporting the bond initiative that made this funding possible.”**

The new facility will enable the Denver Crime Laboratory Bureau to consolidate all of its services under one roof and also provide capacity for on-site vehicle examinations, which are currently being conducted at outlying Police District Substations. Consolidation is expected to enhance communication, coordination and efficiency of the laboratory workflow. Units managed by the Bureau include:

- Crime Scene Investigation Unit
- Forensic Chemistry and Trace Evidence Unit
- Firearms and Toolmarks Unit
- Latent Prints Unit
- Forensic Imaging Unit-video and photographic analysis
- Forensic Biology and DNA Unit
- Quality Assurance Unit
- Crime Scene Volunteer Unit

The \$36 million facility will connect to the Police Administration Complex. The secure connection from the laboratory to the Denver Evidence Bureau will ensure maximum protection of forensic evidence.

Additionally, under the City’s commitment to Greenprint Denver initiatives, the laboratory is being designed and constructed with the goal of achieving Certification in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) through sustainable construction approaches recognized by the U.S. Green Building Council. The new laboratory’s design has addressed energy savings, water efficiency, CO2 emission reduction and improved indoor air quality.

Denver Public Works is providing project management for the facility by working closely with the Denver Police Department. Durrant and Smith Group worked jointly to develop the architectural design for the laboratory and JE DUNN is the construction firm.

For visuals and more information on the facility, visit: <http://www.denvergov.org/BetterDenver/DPDCrimeLab>

The City & County of Denver’s \$550M Better Denver Bond Program works to preserve, renovate and create amenities that touch resident’s lives – including roads, libraries, parks, recreation centers, public safety, human services, city buildings and cultural facilities. Approved by voters in 2007, the bond program is generating millions of dollars for the economy, preserving and creating jobs and making Denver a more attractive place to live, work, and invest in the future. For more information about the Better Denver Bond Program, visit www.denvergov.org/betterdenver

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