

COUNTY OF FAIRFAX

STEVE DESCANO
COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

4110 CHAIN BRIDGE ROAD, ROOM 114 FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030-4047

June 13, 2023

Contact: Laura Birnbaum, PIO 571-396-1179

FAIRFAX COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY STEVE DESCANO RELEASES RED FLAG LAW DATA

75% of Virginia ESROs originate in Fairfax County

Fairfax County, VA — Today, Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano released a dashboard on Red Flag Orders, showing over 100 instances in the last 9 months where firearms have been temporarily removed from an individual. This dashboard, which is the first-of-its-kind in Virginia, tracks open cases in real time and helps raise awareness for Red Flag Laws among the community.

The full dashboard can be viewed here.

Red Flag Laws, called Emergency Substantial Risk Orders (ESROs) in Virginia, allow law enforcement to temporarily remove firearms from someone who poses a danger to themselves or others. Since enacted into law in 2020, Fairfax County has overseen 75% of the commonwealth's ESROs, due in part to coordination and prioritization among law enforcement agencies. The Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney (OCA) has a designated Red Flag Law team to handle these high-priority and fast-moving cases.

"Red Flag Laws are some of the best tools we have to prevent future gun violence, but that all depends on community awareness to help notify law enforcement about potential danger," CA Descano said. "This dashboard is part of our continued campaign to raise awareness in the community about how Red Flag Laws save lives."

The Red Flag Data Dashboard is the second dashboard Descano's office has released as part of its commitment to transparency and data-informed decision-making.