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March 16, 2012

BPC #12-0090

The Honorable City Council
City of Los Angeles
c/o City Clerk's Office

Dear Honorable Members:

RE: DNA QUARTERLY REPORT – 4th QUARTER 2011

At the regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held Tuesday, February 28, 2012, the Board APPROVED the Department's report relative to the above matter.

This matter is being forwarded to you for approval.

Respectfully,

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maria Silva".

MARIA SILVA
Commission Executive Assistant

Attachment

c: Chief of Police

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

BPC #12-0090
RECEIVED
FEB 16 2012
POLICE COMMISSION

February 16, 2012
8.6

REVIEWED

TO: Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Chief of Police

MOM JEFAR
2/21/12
DATE

SUBJECT: DNA QUARTERLY REPORT – 4th QUARTER 2011

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. That the Board of Police Commissioners (Board) REVIEW and APPROVE this report.
2. That the Board TRANSMIT the attached DNA Quarterly Report, 4th Quarter 2011, to the Los Angeles City Council.

DISCUSSION

At the request of the Los Angeles City Council and the Public Safety Committee, this is the 4th Quarterly Report as it relates to the reduction of the backlog of the DNA Evidence Kits.

Should have any questions, please contact Lieutenant Thomas Thompson, Acting Commanding Officer, Robbery-Homicide Division, at (213) 486-6850.

Respectfully,



CHARLIE BECK
Chief of Police

Attachments

BOARD OF
POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Approved
Secretary

February 28, 2012
Maria Silva

**Detective Bureau
DNA Quarterly Report- 4th Quarter 2011
January 12, 2012**

PURPOSE

Robbery-Homicide Division (RHD) has been asked to provide a written report and remain available to provide a monthly verbal report to the Los Angeles City Council and the Public Safety Committee, as it relates to the reduction of the backlog of the DNA Evidence Kits. This is the 4th quarterly report for 2011. The progress report is posted and updated on a monthly basis on the Department's website.

BACKGROUND

In September of 2008, the City Controller's Office published a report regarding the status of all Sexual Assault Evidence Kits (SAEK) booked into evidence at the Los Angeles Police Department's (LAPD) Property Division. The report revealed 7,495 SAEKs had not yet been analyzed. As a result, the LAPD conducted a physical audit of all SAEKs booked at Property Division. The LAPD's audit revealed that there were 11,077 SAEKs in evidence, and 6,132 SAEKs had not been analyzed. The 6,132 SAEKs became the "Historical Backlog."

A monthly DNA report has been developed with the collaboration of the Controller's Office, the City Attorney's Office, Councilmember Eric Garcetti's office, and a multitude of victim advocate groups. The monthly report documents efforts to reduce the Historical Backlog and provides month to month progress.

PROGRESS

The Los Angeles Police Department's identified Historical Backlog of 6,132 SAEKs has been completed. Analysis and technical reviews for the entire work has been completed on the Historical Backlog. Of the 6,132 SAEKs analyzed, the LAPD has uploaded 2,146 forensic unknown profiles into the Combined Offender DNA Index System (CODIS). Additionally, as of December 31, 2011, from the 6,132 SAEKs analyzed, there have been 795 named offender hits and 37 case to case hits. Of the case to case hits, some include forensic unknowns, while others include named offenders identifying possible sexual assault serial offenders. These results do not include the analysis efforts of the SAEKs booked post December 8, 2008.

The continued efforts to reconcile the SAEKs booked prior to December 8, 2008, identified 4,945 SAEKs which were, at the time, considered complete. However, pre-2008 procedural standards documented that a SAEK was completed for many reasons other than the current criteria, such as SAEKs in the process of being tested could previously be cancelled by the requesting detective due to a court case disposition. These SAEKs were deemed completed. SAEKs only screened for DNA, as well as SAEKs only sent for DNA typing for comparison, and not uploaded into CODIS were also deemed completed. A review of available original bench notes on cases that were originally deemed completed, yielded information that warranted review under current procedures and available technology, especially when these cases were considered as unsolved. The original SID databases used to review the cases were initially designed to assist in casework distribution and task completion for the Serology DNA unit.

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January 12, 2012

These original systems were replaced to a degree by the current Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS). The prior system was not designed to contain all bench notes produced in an analysis of a concerned case.

The Department reviewed an additional 2,453 SAEKs that were previously deemed completed by 2008 procedural standards. The 2,453 SAEKs were processed for review and taken to their further progression, up to a CODIS upload. The Department uploaded an additional 1,041 forensic unknown profiles into CODIS, which yielded an additional 536 CODIS hits.

Beyond the 2,453 SAEKs mentioned, there are an additional 1,475 SAEKs that were deemed "complete" per 2008 procedural standards that the Department will review to meet our commitment to analyze all SAEKs of evidentiary value against our current procedural standards. This is to ensure that any SAEK in need for further analysis be taken to the most progressive step of analysis available, up to CODIS upload, by applying the most current technology standard available. Some of these cases will not require any additional analysis process upon review and will be deemed unsuitable for testing or validated as completed under current procedural standards.

From July 1, 2009, to December 31, 2011, total funds spent for outsourced SAEKs analysis has totaled \$9,322,807.00.

Although all the new staff positions approved for the Scientific Investigation Division (SID), Serology/DNA Unit (SDU) Expansion Program were once filled, due to a number of resignations and promotions in the SDU, we have been attempting to restore our personnel capacity for the staffing needs for DNA analysis since April 2011. Final approval from the Managed Hiring Committee is still pending on the authorization to back fill the vacancies that occurred during the SDU Expansion Program.

The category "Remaining Untested Kits" does require some explanation at this point. This number represents the number of SAEKs booked where testing is not yet completed. It will always number in the hundreds, and never approach zero. While some of the cases that make up this number have not yet been requested, the remaining majority of cases have been assigned to an analyst and are in the process of either being screened or DNA typed (in-house or outsourced). For these reasons, this number provides limited useful information as to the true progress of SAEK testing.

The number is, however, *temporarily* trending upward during this quarter for a couple of reasons. In an attempt to remain on schedule with the original Department plan of completing all SAEKs in-house by July 2011, few cases were outsourced in August and September 2011. Due to the diminished and unrestored staffing levels mentioned previously, this effort was premature and abandoned in October. Outsourced SAEKs experience a turnaround time of a few months and the temporary reduction is showing up now, as a reduction in completed work being returned from the outsourcing laboratories. At this time, any cases that cannot be completed in a timely manner by Department personnel are being outsourced, so the number of "Remaining Untested Kits" should begin decreasing in the next few months.

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The SDU is working on specific methods to significantly improve overall efficiency and productivity of this process. They should be able to realize these gains by the end of the 2012/13 fiscal year. However, putting these processes in place requires validations of both techniques and equipment. These validations must be completed by experienced personnel, which in the short term, reduces their availability to complete casework. Numerous additional new hires have to be trained, and their training must be conducted by experienced analysts, also reducing the availability of the experienced staff to complete casework. Once trained and performing novice casework, experienced analysts must also exercise closer scrutiny of the trainees' work. These factors also contribute to the short term increases in the "Remaining Untested Kits" category.

Information Technology Division, along with the two consultants, have continued in their progression on gathering information needed for the "Request For Proposal" (RFP) on the technical and business requirements needed for Evidence and Property Information Management System (EPIMS). The primary requirement is to allow the fluid data migration from our Department's current major systems, Consolidated Crime Arrest Database (CCAD), Automated Property Information Management System (APIMS), Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), and Detective Case Tracking System (DCTS), to monitor and have greater efficiency on providing comprehensive evidence analysis information on specific items of evidence and access to statistical inquiry data. It is anticipated that the consultants' work process will be completed in March of 2012, for the issuance of a RFP.

We continue to utilize and develop our interim system "RHD Incident Tracking System" (ITS) to allow for data entry by personnel to submit the LAPD Form 12.56, "Request for Serology/DNA Analysis," (RSDA) electronically on a website based system. The RSDA can then be viewed, prioritized and edited. The request form is accessible for viewing by investigators, criminalists, and supervising personnel. The database ensures each SAEK booked into Department custody is accounted for with a RSDA submittal. Upon importing analysis completion information from LIMS, this system can assist in ensuring timely testing requirements are met for Penal Codes 680 and 803 with built-in email alerts.

CONCLUSION

The Historical Backlog of 6,132 SAEKs has been eliminated, along with an additional analysis of 2,453 SAEKs that were reprocessed for a possible profile to be uploaded to CODIS. We have continued to address peripheral analysis needs regarding elimination reference samples and confirmation hits on CODIS uploads. We work in partnership with other city entities, and victim advocacy groups to create a better work process, for continuous improvement. We will continue to monitor and analyze our new incoming SAEK cases in a timely manner.

In furtherance of this process, and in consultation with victim advocacy groups and other City entities, the Department will be implementing a new format for the monthly report. The new format presents the same information as the previous format, but organized in a manner that is easier to follow. The new format also provides more detailed information regarding the overall

Detective Bureau
DNA Quarterly Report- 4th Quarter 2011
January 12, 2012

progress in testing SAEKs, an improvement over the previous "Remaining Untested Kits" category.

The Department will continue to efficiently respond to crimes involving DNA evidence, outsource SAEKs as funding permits, and continue to train our Serology/DNA unit personnel for increased "In-House" DNA analysis.

Attached are the monthly DNA Progress Reports for October, November, and December 2011.

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
Sexual Assault Evidence Kits (SAEK)
 Progress Report for October 31st, 2011.

Category	Historical Backlog Pre 12/8/08	Subsequent Post 12/8/08	October 2011 Activity (All cases)
Total Kits Booked	6132	3869	96
Rape Kits (LAPD)	6012	3820	95
Sex Kits (Coroner)	120	49	1
Outsourced to Private Laboratory	4658	2562	47
Analyzed SAEK's	4658	2456	77
Submitted to Laboratory/pending return to LAPD	0	106	47
DNA profiles found	2469	1204	41
Completed Technical Review	2469	1017	22
Pending Technical Review	0	187	N/A
Uploaded to CODIS	2117	580	35
Total CODIS Hits	864	372	13
Named offender only	776	322	11
Case-to-case only	34	16	1
Named offender and case-to-case	54	34	1
LAPD Laboratory Analyzed SAEK's	249	376	27
DNA Profiles Found	47	180	0
Uploaded to CODIS	29	249	0
Total CODIS Hits	23	157	4
Named offender only	19	121	4
Case-to-case only	3	13	-1
Named offender and case-to-case	1	23	1
Unsuitable for Testing	1225	647	7
Remaining Untested Kits	0	390	N/A

Compiled By,
 Elizabeth Nation
 James Blocker

Scientific Investigation Division
 Robbery-Homicide Division

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
Sexual Assault Evidence Kits (SAEK)
Progress Report for November 30th, 2011

Category	Historical Backlog Pre 12/8/08	Subsequent Post 12/8/08	November 2011 Activity (All cases)
Total Kits Booked	6132	3943	74
Rape Kits (LAPD)	6012	3892	72
Sex Kits (Coroner)	120	51	2
Outsourced to Private Laboratory	4658	2554	75
Analyzed SAEK's	4658	2456	0
Submitted to Laboratory/pending return to LAPD	0	98	75
DNA profiles found	2469	1204	0
Completed Technical Review	2469	1072	55
Pending Technical Review	0	133	N/A
Uploaded to CODIS	2117	603	23
Total CODIS Hits	864	381	9
Named offender only	776	330	8
Case-to-case only	34	17	1
Named offender and case-to-case	54	34	0
LAPD Laboratory Analyzed SAEK's	249	406	30
DNA Profiles Found	47	187	7
Uploaded to CODIS	29	261	12
Total CODIS Hits	23	160	3
Named offender only	19	122	1
Case-to-case only	3	15	2
Named offender and case-to-case	1	23	0
Unsuitable for Testing	1225	648	1
Remaining Untested Kits	0	433	N/A

Compiled By,
Scientific Investigation Division

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
Sexual Assault Evidence Kits (SAEK)
Progress Report for December 31st, 2011.

Category	Historical Backlog Pre 12/8/08	Subsequent Post 12/8/08	December2011 Activity (All cases)
Total Kits Booked	6132	4047	104
Rape Kits (LAPD)	6012	3995	103
Sex Kits (Coroner)	120	52	1
Outsourced to Private Laboratory	4658	2617	63
Analyzed SAEK's	4658	2463	7
Submitted to Laboratory/pending return to LAPD	0	154	63
DNA profiles found	2469	1206	2
Completed Technical Review	2469	1146	74
Pending Technical Review	0	52	N/A
Uploaded to CODIS	2117	684	81
Total CODIS Hits	864	385	4
Named offender only	776	334	4
Case-to-case only	34	17	0
Named offender and case-to-case	54	34	0
LAPD Laboratory Analyzed SAEK's	249	433	27
DNA Profiles Found	47	200	13
Uploaded to CODIS	29	334	73
Total CODIS Hits	23	162	2
Named offender only	19	124	2
Case-to-case only	3	15	0
Named offender and case-to-case	1	23	0
Unsuitable for Testing	1225	648	0
Remaining Untested Kits	0	503	N/A

Compiled by,
Scientific Investigation Division