

**TO THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

File No. 10-0555

Your PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

reports as follows:

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the status of ongoing efforts by the Police Department to reduce the backlog of the DNA Evidence Kits during the period January through March, 2010.

Recommendation for Council action:

NOTE and FILE Police Department report to the Board of Police Commissioners dated April 5, 2010 (attached to the Council file), relative to the status of ongoing efforts to reduce the backlog of the DNA Evidence Kits during the period January through March, 2010.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Not applicable.

Community Impact Statement Submitted: None

SUMMARY

In the April 5, 2010, report to the Board of Police Commissioners, the Police Department states that as of February 28, 2010, the historical backlog of Sexual Assault Evidence Kits (SAEKs) has been reduced from 6,132 to 648, an 82 percent backlog reduction.

Of the 4,406 cases analyzed, the Police Department has uploaded 814 forensic unknown profiles into the Combined Offender DNA Index System (CODIS). Additionally, from the 4,406 cases analyzed, there have been 190 named offender hits and 24 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.

The Police Department goes on to report that its ability to further reduce the backlog has been slowed by budget mandated furloughs. Ten new criminalists/technicians have been selected for immediate hire to increase the Department's Serology/DNA staff. The Department will continue to outsource its SAEKs for analysis as funding permits.

The Department further reports that legislative efforts are being addressed in the United States Senate to eliminate Federal policies that require verification of analysis of DNA testing completed by outsourced accredited approved laboratories by a "Law Enforcement Government Laboratory." Currently, the FBI Laboratory is re-evaluating existing policies, standards, and protocols, regarding the requirements for a review of the results of outsourced private laboratories DNA analysis by public law enforcement laboratories.

On April 6, 2010, the Board of Police Commissioners approved the Police Department's report and transmitted it on to Council for consideration by the Public Safety Committee.

At its meeting held April 26, 2010, the Public Safety Committee discussed this matter with representatives of the Police Department. Police Department representative stated that SAEKs will continue to be outsourced to private laboratories while the Department builds in capacity.

Pursuant to Federal guidelines, Police Department staff must analyze outsourced SAEKs. This work is a review of the analysis conducted by private laboratories, not a complete re-testing of the SAEKs. The Committee went on to discuss related matters such as Police Department hiring of additional scientific personnel, the modification of Federal requirements regarding the outsourced SAEKs, and why certain kits are deemed unsuitable for testing. After concluding its consideration of this matter, the Public Safety Committee recommended that Council note and file the Police Department report.

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

- NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS -

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
SMITH:	YES
CARDENAS:	YES
PERRY:	YES
REYES:	ABSENT
ZINE:	YES

JAW

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