

Report on the Controller's Office, 2nd FOLLOW-UP
AUDIT Recommendations
April 30, 2012

BACKGROUND

On November 10, 2011, the Office of the Controller issued the 2nd Follow-Up Audit of the Forensic DNA Backlog Reduction Grant Program. The Audit identified several findings and recommendations. The Los Angeles Police Department (Department) was asked to prepare a response and include information regarding the steps the Department has taken or intends to take to address the recommendations and to clarify information.

The following numbered items have been completed from the Controller's Office 2nd Follow Up Audit recommendations.

Recommendation No. 1

Ensure that any sexual assault evidence kits that will be analyzed or that require a technical review are included in the SAEK Progress Reports.

Recommendation No. 3

Ensure reconciling differences between Departmental records are properly accounted for and explained in the SAEK Progress Report in order to accurately reflect the number and processing status of SAEKs.

Recommendation No. 4

Review those DNA cases where a request for testing is pending and determine the proper disposition.

Recommendation No. 5

Formalize follow-up procedures to ensure DNA testing requests are made within 30 days of the date of the offense.

Recommendation No. 6

Ensure the protocol for requesting DNA testing is followed in order to accurately track the status of rape kits.

Recommendation No. 7

The LAPD should implement protocols to review the unfounded cases received subsequent to December 8, 2008, to ensure that any cases where DNA analysis should be performed are identified.

Recommendation No. 8

The LAPD should verify the data queries used to compile the SAEK Progress Reports to minimize any reporting differences.

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Recommendation No. 9

The LAPD should re-assess its resource needs (staffing and funding) to ensure the appropriate level of resources is available and maintained to prevent any future rape kit backlogs from occurring.

Recommendation No. 10

Communicate to Policymakers any change to originally estimated funding levels that were designated for a specific purpose.

The following numbered items remain and are an ongoing effort to reconcile from the Controller's Office 2nd Follow-Up Audit recommendations.

Recommendation No. 2

Identify revisions that are necessary to various Departmental records (e.g., APIMS or SAEK Master List, etc.) to ensure the reported number and status of SAEKs is accurate.

Response:

The completion of this recommendation involves the development of a master database (Recommendation #11) and the ongoing development of the interim system Robbery-Homicide Division (RHD)/ Incident Tracking System (ITS).

Information Technology Division (ITD) has developed an additional feature in RHD/ITS that compares and identifies any Division of Record (DR) numbers that are in RHD/ITS that are no longer entered in Property Division's Automated Property Information Management System (APIMS). A new query function allows for check and balances for SAEKs that could have an alternate DR number issue, as well as improve on the accounting of the total number of SAEKs in LAPD custody. Once the discrepancy is realized, notification are made to ensure that Property Division, RHD, and Scientific Investigation Division (SID) are made aware of any changes to a DR number and any evidence is the transferred to the proper DR number.

The revised SAEK Monthly Report has been developed to reflect additional stages of the SAEK analysis request process, as well as any SAEK that is added from previous years. We have submitted a total of 216 SAEKs as retests and have tabulated the amount in the April DNA monthly DNA report. This month, 178 SAEKs were submitted. The submittal of the re-tests will be processed under the current analysis standards and most recent DNA protocols. The analysis completion and progress of all SAEKs will be observed in the revised SAEK Monthly Report.

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Recommendation No. 11

The LAPD should establish a formalized plan or timeline with interim milestones to track its progress in developing a comprehensive master database for sexual assault evidence kits.

Response:

Information Technology Division (ITD) has gathered the business and technical requirements for the Evidence and Property Information Management System (EPIMS). A Request For Proposal (RFP) document is in the final stages of revision to be submitted to the City Attorney's Office for review. Once the RFP is released and proposals are received from various vendors, the Department will be better positioned to identify a timeline for acquisition and implementation of the new Evidence and Property Information Management System. Early cost estimates for such a system easily exceed one-million dollars for which there is not an identified source of funding.