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September 06, 2012

Honorable C. Don Clay, Presiding Judge
Alameda County Superior Court
1225 Fallon Street, Department One
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Response to 2011-2012 Alameda County Grand Jury Final Report on Crime Laboratories in Alameda County.

Dear Judge Clay:

This letter contains the Oakland Police Department's required response to the 2011-2012 Alameda County Grand Jury Final Report.

Recommendation 12-1:

The County Chiefs of Police and Sheriff's Association must meet, confer and develop a written proposal to establish one consolidated Crime Lab in Alameda County.

Response:

No position required. The Grand Jury directed this recommendation to the Alameda County Chiefs of Police and Sheriff's Association.

Recommendation 12-2:

The Oakland Police Department Criminalistics Division must immediately clear its forensic testing backlog.

Response

The Department agrees partially with this finding and acknowledges that the demand for forensic services exceeds capacity. The Administration has recently taken steps to authorize

S-12

MEETING OF THE
OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

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the recruitment and filling six existing vacancies within the Crime Laboratory and has identified a need for 13 additional laboratory staff at a cost of \$1,337,996.30 to meet the demand for laboratory service and improve timeliness. The Department will explore this option as well as other options to determine whether they are feasible avenues to service delivery improvement without requiring the additional staff identified. More time will be required to evaluate options for improving service.

Recommendation 12-3:

The Oakland Police Department must immediately acquire a Department-wide case management database that integrates the Oakland Police Department Criminalists Division and country-wide criminal data bases.

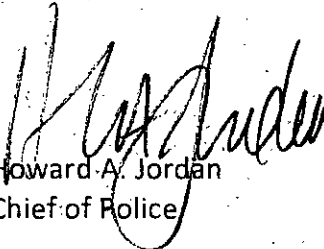
Response

The Department agrees with the finding that a more streamlined method is needed to identify laboratory requests that are no longer required. Further study of the subject is needed to identify the best way forward and how county-wide criminal data bases may contribute to the process.

Plan

The Department is in the process of developing a work plan to address Recommendations 12-2 and 12-3 and will keep the Court informed of progress and outcomes.

Respectfully submitted,


Howard A. Jordan
Chief of Police

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