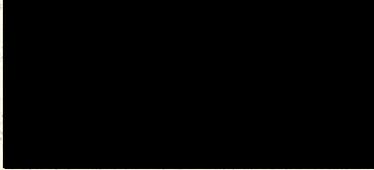




July 15, 2014



In Response,
Please Reply To:

Kimberly Murga, Director of Laboratory Services
Direct (702) 828-3932 Fax (702) 828-3948

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]:

The LVMPD's Evidence Vault is responsible for evidence receipt and storage. The Evidence Vault contains over a million items that were collected from crimes that occurred 40+ years ago through today. In order for an item of evidence to be analyzed by the Forensic Lab, a Detective must evaluate the probative value of the evidence and submit a request for scientific examination to the Forensic Lab.

Sexual assault kits in long-term storage at the Evidence Vault are not contained in the backlog of the Forensic Lab. Only uncompleted cases that have been formally requested by an investigating agent are contained in the laboratory's backlog. The Forensic lab only temporarily stores evidence undergoing active scientific analysis. When the Forensic Lab completes DNA analysis on a sexual assault kit (or any item of evidence for that matter), it is returned to the Evidence Vault for long-term storage. When a sexual assault kit is collected from a victim, it remains at the Evidence Vault almost indefinitely – even if charges are dropped or the victim recants allegations of sexual assault.

Of the ~5,200 sexual assault kits booked into the LVMPD's Evidence Vault over the past 10 years, ~800 of the sexual assault kits have been analyzed at the Forensic Lab and ~4,400 have never been analyzed. Sexual assault kits stored at the Evidence Vault represent a mix of many different scenarios, which may include but are not limited to the following:

- 1) Kits that have been subjected to non-DNA analysis (serology) prior to the mid 1990's
- 2) Kits that have been subjected to DNA analysis
- 3) Kits that were collected and the case was adjudicated without laboratory analysis.
- 4) Kits that were collected however were never requested for DNA analysis due to lack of probative value (for example, "consent" cases where DNA will not resolve whether sex was consensual).
- 5) Kits that were collected, however the victim has decided to not pursue formal charges.
- 6) Kits that were collected as a "precautionary measure" during an investigation, later to discover the elements of a sexual-assault related crime have never been established.

According to NRS 176.0912, biological evidence that is associated with an investigation or the prosecution of a defendant must be preserved for a category A or B felony until the expiration of any sentence imposed on the defendant.



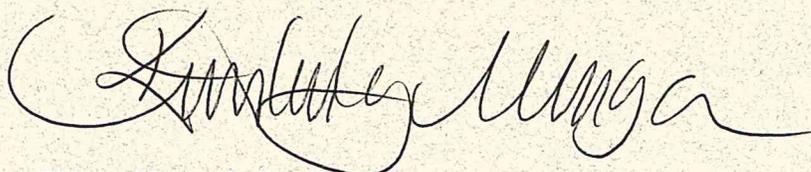
Per your request, the following is the breakdown of sexual assault kits currently housed at the LVMPD's Evidence Vault broken down by year for the last 10 years:

Year	Sexual Assault Kits at LVMPD Evidence Vault	Sexual Assault Kits Analyzed	Unanalyzed Sexual Assault Kits
2004	490	60	430
2005	598	76	522
2006	577	66	511
2007	529	100	429
2008	592	126	466
2009	595	117	478
2010	503	98	405
2011	477	89	388
2012	475	83	392
2013	395	31	364
TOTAL	5231	846	4385

As part of the judicial process, documentation related to technical manuals and testing protocols are only produced as part of a Discovery request upon presentation of a legal court order or subpoena duces tecum.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Murga, Director of Laboratory services



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