

STATE CRIME LABORATORY COMMISSION MEETING

THURSDAY APRIL 14, 2016

THE DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

150 SOUTH MAIN STREET

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

In attendance were Gerald Coyne, Deputy Attorney General from Rhode Island Department of Attorney General; Director Dennis Hilliard, Rhode Island State Crime Laboratory; Professor Paul Larrat URI College of Pharmacy; Colonel David Randall RI Police Chiefs Designee; Corporal Kenneth DeMarco, RISP; Nancy Haley, Clay Choquette; Robin Smith DOH.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Welcome to Commission Members

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM. Mr. Coyne thanked everyone for attending.

B. Approve Minutes of January 14, 2016

Mr. Coyne asked to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2016 meeting. Nancy Haley made a motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Clay Choquette. All were in favor and the minutes were approved. The meeting at this point was turned over to Director Hilliard.

II. LABORATORY STATUS

A. Laboratory Progress Report

a. January to March, 2016

Handouts were provided at the start of the meeting by Director Hilliard, which includes a letter to AG Kilmartin summarizing the quarterly progress. The number of submission seems to have increased by 53% for the quarter with increases seen in cases from almost all Police Departments. In 2015 at the end of the first quarter case total submissions were 134 and same period this year was reported at 200. The greatest increase was reported by Providence. There also seemed to be more breaking and entering cases, fingerprints, and firearms.

Laboratory personnel were present at three court appearances. They presented ten lectures and seminars. Staff members also attended eight training programs either on-line courses or away conferences. There were six tours of the Laboratory. During the summer it is expected that two college students will be provided with internships. There was one media event with an appearance on the Bob Venturini show following the Brussels bombing.

The Crime Laboratory School will be graduating 29 on April 15, 2016. There are already 36 students signed up for the 2016/2017 class which will start in September. Mr. Coyne then asked if there was a waiting list for the fall class. Director Hilliard started that there was. He also explained that slots were allowed to each of the Police Departments first, and that Police Departments may give away one of their slots if not needed. He also explained that this is the only course of this nature offered in New England and there have been requests from Massachusetts and Connecticut Police Departments. Out of

state slots are only provided if all in

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state Police Departments have either accepted or declined the slot. Mr., Coyne then asked if the course can be taken by a non-law enforcement individual. Director Hilliard stated that the individual must be sponsored by law enforcement personnel.

A recent desk audit was successful.

b. AFIS Connectivity/Searches

Problems continue to exist. Enclosed in the packet is an email from Mark Zakinski, which explains some of the problems. Basically, a set of fingerprints was run and there was a hit on a fingerprint the only problem is that there was a problem printing out some of the forms. There seems to be a problem when searching for palm prints. They ran a palm print two different ways one was on the new system and this resulted in a wait for the search to end with the settings set to the fastest level. The same search was done on the same palm in the old system and it came back a couple of minutes later. The unsolved latent print data base in the new system has records entered in up to May of 2015. All latents that were entered into the old system since May of 2015 are not in the new system. A new printer needed to be purchased as the old printer was not compatible with

the new system. The print quality on this printer seems to be fair and not as good as the older printer.

Problems exist with FBI searches. In the email from Mark he explains that the penetration of the search is cut by 30%. This had not had to be performed with old system for at least one year. What that means is that three searches need to be done for every latent fingerprint which is searched if it is unknown which finger the print came from. Another problem is that only three fingers can be searched at a time. As for the FBI Data Base Capability specific states such as Massachusetts cannot be searched. Searches have to be done as a nation-wide search. Palm civilian and military records also cannot be searched. This seems to be a contract and software problem. Ed Cabral from the Attorney General's office has stated that these services are in the contract and 3M engineer disagrees. This issues needs to be addressed by the Attorney General's office as there is lots of time which is wasted on the Examiners part. These issues are being worked on with Tom Alferi, the 3M maintenance engineer. RISP are experiencing the same problems. Providence Police is also having problems with AFIS>

i. Latent print section case load

Latent print case load has dropped to 84 from 117 reported in January. This is still

higher than usual number. There was mention at the last meeting of possibly giving consideration to bringing in a part time examiner. Ed Dowling does continue to work six hours a week and right now there does not seem to be a need for another Examiner. This will be

monitored over the next quarter.

c. Firearms Backlog Issues/Bullet Recovery Tank Relocation

Most of the panels have been installed for the relocation of the tank. The ballistic door has been delivered, but still needs to be installed and then the tank needs to be delivered. Once the door and tank are in place the room will be closed off from the foyer and finished. This will hopefully be completed by June, 2016.

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Firearm cases are down 30 cases this year compared to 76 last year at this time. Part of this is due to Providence reducing their numbers. There have been continued discussions with NIBIN/ATF on the AFT and Providence PD wanting to have NIBIN potential hits reported out within 48 hours of submission to the Laboratory. Director Hilliard stated that he has prepared a response which indicates that due to quality assurance policies potential hits cannot be reported out until they are verified, technically and reviewed by the administrator. For cases with test fired cartridges and cases containing a single expended casing Director Hilliard stated that he has agreed to have a report produced within five to ten days of submission ATF agent Kwak would like the Laboratory to consider policies implemented by other states which allows them to report out potential hits without verification. Director Hilliard stated he would review the material once it is provided and that he would try to accommodate the needs which have been requested with the

accreditation committee.

d. Space Allocation

Director Hilliard stated that he is working closely with URI on the planned renovation of offices and laboratory space in the basement of Fogarty Hill. Looks like The University is moving quickly with the renovations, and it should be ready September, 2016, and there is a possibility even sometime this summer.

e. Limited Period Appointment

The hearing on Bill S2668 was heard on April 13, 2016 by the Senate Subcommittee on Education. Director Hilliard stated that he was there to testify and the bill was held for consideration.

III. Funding

A. Budget FY 2016

a. Expenditures to date

Spreadsheets were enclosed in the packet which show expenditures to date. Spending is right on target. Any surplus funds are put aside for service contracts and if there is any excess this will be spent on renovations.

B. Budget FY2017 Request

a. Equipment request

The budget proposal will be updated based on the passage of the state budget.

Included in the 2017 is a request for new equipment – UV-VIS Microscope and comparison microscope. These pieces of equipment cannot be purchased if the Governor's recommendation for the

proposed budget is passed by the legislature.

b. Budget Hearing Testimony

Director Hilliard explained that the House finance Education Subcommittee hearing was on April 6,2016, and that he testified on the need for full funding of the Laboratory's request. The Governor has requested that the proposed budget submitted be cut by \$249,000.00. There will be a Senate Finance Committee hearing sometime in May. Director Hilliard has received letters of support from The Attorney General on behalf of the Commission and one from Colonel Randall on behalf of the RIPCA. Colonel Clements from Providence Police has also promised a letter of support.

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D. Other Sources of Funding

a. Byrne 2014

Director Hilliard stated that he has requested and received a no cost extension of June of 2016. These funds will be used to pay for the Bullet tank recovery room and tank expenses.

b. Byrne FY 2015

These funds will be used to update the computer hardware and software for the serve replacement.

c. Coverdell FY2015

The funds from this grant are used for training and conferences for Laboratory personnel.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Old Business from January 14, 2016 Commission Meeting

Director Hilliard has requested that letters of on behalf of the Laboratory from the Commission to support the following:

- a. Letters are requested to Rhode Island Leadership supporting the Limited Period Position Status of Laboratory employees.**
- b. Letters of support to Federal Senators and Representatives to support the continuation of the Byrne and Coverdell grants.**

B. Federal Initiatives Concerning Forensic Science

- a. Director Hilliard explained that free access to forensic science standards can be obtained through <http://www.nist.gov/forensics/osac-registries.cfm>**
- b. National commission on Forensic Science website is <https://www/justice.gov/ncfs>.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Minutes taken and transcribed by:

Monica Nason, Department of