



HFSC DNA Staff to Receive HPD Commendation for Work on Rape Case

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Houston Police Department is commending a team from the Houston Forensic Science Center's Biology Section for quick, quality work that helped with the arrest of an accused serial rapist.

The group of 13 HFSC analysts will be awarded HPD's Chief of Police Unit Citation at an awards ceremony on August 23. The HFSC staff receiving the commendation are: Jennifer Clay, Ben Cambridge, Maria Rumble, Zoraya Reyes, India Henry, Katie Foster, Kerry Todd, Mary Hall, Mary Symonds, Diana Donley, Jisel Bailon, Clay Davis and Courtney Head.

The case they are receiving a commendation for involved a serial rapist, and it was the expedited DNA work this group did that allowed police and prosecutors to find, arrest and charge a suspect. It was also DNA testing that indicated to police they initially had the wrong person in custody. He was released.

The work began on August 21, 2015 when a sexual assault kit was processed and samples were prepared for DNA analysis. On September 15, 2015 a report issued noted an unknown male DNA profile has been obtained from the complainant's breast swabs.

This information was input into the federal DNA database, or CODIS.

Months later, on January 13, 2016, HFSC's Biology Section received a new request to conduct DNA analysis on a pen believed to have been handled by a possible suspect. The item was processed and a report was issued a week later. At 10 a.m. on January 22, the lab received a sample for comparison from a suspect. DNA analysis excluded that

suspect, allowing investigators to eliminate him and focus on other suspects. That same evening, a reference sample from a new suspect, Reginald Bond, was tagged into HPD's property room. On Saturday January 23, four analysts came into work to expedite the analysis. The testing indicated Mr. Bond could not be excluded as a suspect based on a DNA comparison to the breast swabs that had been tested in August 2015.

In both cases, testing and reporting was completed in 10 hours or less. An arrest was made based on the findings.

HFSC is a local government corporation that provides forensic services to the City of Houston and other local agencies. HFSC is overseen by a Board of Directors appointed by the Mayor of Houston and confirmed by the Houston City Council. Its management structure is designed to be responsive to a 2009 recommendation by the National Academy of Sciences that called for crime laboratories to be independent of law enforcement and prosecutorial branches of government.

HFSC currently has eight forensic sections.

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