



HFSC hosts delegation from Kazakhstan led by deputy justice minister

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The Houston Forensic Science Center is welcoming to its laboratories on Friday Kazakhstan's deputy minister of justice, who is leading a delegation of forensic scientists, government and law enforcement officials.

Zhanat Yeshmagambetov, the deputy minister, is joined by members of the Kazakhstan Senate's committee on constitutional legislation, the head of the criminal police department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, leading forensic scientists and prominent attorneys who are part of a World Bank grant dedicated to improving Kazakhstan's justice system.

"HFSC is proud to be one of the agencies the Kazakhstan delegation has chosen to visit and learn from as they seek to reform their own justice system," said Dr. Peter Stout, HFSC's CEO and president.

"It is further evidence of the progress HFSC has made in the past four years as it transforms into a model forensic agency," Dr. Stout said.

The delegation will get an overview of Houston's forensic history and its darkest days and learn how independent control over science, hiring and procurement has helped it become a crime lab others look to as progressive and credible.

The group will also tour some of HFSC's laboratories and look at the work being done in tight conditions that are not always conducive to scientific work.

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 operates in seven forensic disciplines.

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