



HFSC Latent Print Section Achieves High-Level Accreditation

November 16, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Houston Forensic Science Center's Latent Print Section has been awarded on Monday the ANAB ISO/IEC 17025 international accreditation. To achieve this level of accreditation, HFSC's Latent Print Section had to demonstrate that it met or exceeded global requirements in management, technical and quality operations.

"My team of examiners has worked long and hard to reach this milestone," said Timothy Schmahl, manager of HFSC's Latent Print Section.

HFSC's Latent Print Section was created in its current form about 18 months ago, when the Center ended a contract with an external company. That company had been doing nearly all of HPD's latent print work. Instead, HFSC hired a team of experienced examiners certified by the International Association for Identification (IAI).

Although the state and the federal government do not require latent print operations to be accredited, HFSC and its Board of Directors chose to take this route as part of a commitment to quality forensic work.

"This is truly a moment of great pride for the Center, our Latent Print team and our Quality Division," said Lori Wilson, HFSC's Quality Division Director.

Wilson's division has been instrumental in guiding the Latent Print Section through the accreditation process, ensuring its written procedures and technical processes are of the highest quality.

The Houston Forensic Science Center operates in four disciplines required by Texas law to be accredited: DNA/Forensic Biology, Toxicology, Controlled Substances and Firearms. It is also working to achieve accreditation for four other forensic fields.

"This brings HFSC a step closer to its goal of having all disciplines fully accredited at the highest standard," said HFSC CEO and President Dr. Daniel Garner.

HFSC is an independent, nonprofit, local government corporation created by the City of Houston to manage and oversee forensic services. HFSC took over management in April 2014 of what had previously been HPD's Crime Laboratory, Crime Scene Unit and parts of its Identification Division. HFSC currently operates in nine disciplines and is expanding.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Ramit Plushnick-Masti

Public Information Officer

media@houstonforensicscience.org

<http://www.houstonforensicscience.org/>

713-929-6768

Follow us on Facebook <http://on.fb.me/1x1zap2>

Follow us on Twitter <https://twitter.com/HoustonForensic>