



Recommendation for Action

File #: 19-1569, **Agenda Item #:** 13.

4/25/2019

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of an amendment to an interlocal agreement with the Houston Forensic Science Center to include in the scope of services forensic DNA services, including ownership review and Combined DNA Index System entry, for three additional one year terms, and to increase funding by \$630,000, for a total amount not to exceed \$730,000.

Lead Department

Austin Police Department

Fiscal Note

Funding for CODIS services in the amount of \$68,400 is available in the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Operating Budget of the Austin Police Department. Funding for the remaining 48 months of the contract period is contingent upon funding in future budgets.

Prior Council Action:

On November 1, 2018 Council approved the HFSC Interlocal Agreement - The motion authorizing negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with the Houston Forensic Science Center was approved on consent on Council Member Casar's motion, Council Member Flannigan's second on an 11-0 vote.

For More Information:

Troy Gay, Chief of Staff, Austin Police Department at 512-974-5030.

Additional Backup Information:

This interlocal agreement defines responsibilities and obligations of the City of Austin and the Houston Forensic Science Center (HFSC) for the purpose of providing technical services to the Austin Police Department (APD) Forensic Science Bureau. .

The primary goal of this amendment is to expedite the technical review of DNA reports for potential entry of DNA data into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) in compliance with the FBI Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories (QAS), Standard 17 and all sub standards of standard 17. This technical review includes an evaluation of DNA reports and associated notes, data and other documents to ensure that there is an appropriate and sufficient basis for conclusions prior to CODIS entry. Following technical review, eligible DNA profiles will be entered into the CODIS database by HFSC, a National DNA Indexing System (NDIS) participating laboratory.

CODIS technical review and upload is a time intensive process that can only be performed by trained DNA analysts within a National DNA Indexing System (NDIS) participating laboratory. The capacity of the City of Austin's current NDIS participating laboratory is significantly outpaced by the number of CODIS requests by APD. HFSC will augment existing capacity, effectively doubling the current capacity for CODIS review and upload of eligible profiles for the City of Austin cases. The proposed amendment also provides contingency CODIS review capability in the event the current NDIS provider of these services experiences a reduction in force or other delay.

The proposed HFSC amendment is one part of a comprehensive package aimed to provide the necessary NDIS Laboratory capacity and expertise to review, take ownership, and provide timely upload into the CODIS database all eligible DNA profiles generated from new FY19-FY23 City of Austin cases.