



## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 19-1570, **Agenda Item #:** 14.

4/25/2019

### **Posting Language**

Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with the University of North Texas Health Science Center to provide forensic DNA services, including Combined DNA Index System services, for the Austin Police Department, with an initial term ending on September 30, 2020, and up to three additional one-year renewal terms, in a total amount not to exceed \$727,200.

### **Lead Department**

Austin Police Department

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding in the amount of \$165,600 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.

### **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 University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC) for the purpose of providing technical services to the Austin Police Department (APD) Forensic Science Bureau.

The primary goal of this agreement 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 UNTHSC, 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. UNTHSC will augment existing capacity, potentially quadrupling the current capacity for CODIS review and upload of eligible profiles for City of Austin cases. The proposed agreement 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 UNTHSC interlocal agreement 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.