County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters
4700 Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169

LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

June 8, 2004

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2004 FORENSIC CASEWORK DNA BACKLOG REDUCTION PROGRAM (ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Authorize the Sheriff to submit a grant application on behalf of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Scientific Services Bureau, to the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice (NIJ) in response to the announcement of available funding for their 2004 Forensic Casework DNA Backlog Reduction Program, which provides funding to existing State and local crime laboratories that conduct DNA analysis to identify and test backlogged forensic DNA casework samples.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

On May 18, 2004, the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice, announced that funding is available through the Fiscal Year 2004 Forensic Casework DNA Backlog Reduction Program. Funds are to be used by existing State and local crime laboratories that conduct DNA analysis to identify and test backlogged forensic DNA casework samples. Applications are due to the NIJ by June 16, 2004.

DNA analysis of biological evidence has the potential to identify perpetrators, as well as to exonerate the wrongfully accused. Many cases in California remain unsolved for lack of DNA testing. It is estimated that 1,200 unsolved sexual assault cases and 700 homicide cases are awaiting analysis in law enforcement evidence lockers in the County jurisdiction. To meet this demand, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Scientific Services Bureau, must enhance its capability to conduct DNA testing. If DNA profiles were developed from these cases and searched against the state and national DNA offender identification data banks, a number of cases might be solved. This grant will support the purchase of supplies to work DNA cases in-house, fund overtime, and fund the sending of samples to private DNA labs for testing.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Submission and subsequently the award of this grant will enable the Sheriff's Department to meet a couple of the County's Strategic Goal Plans, such as Goal # 2: Workforce Excellence, enhancing the quality and productivity of the County workforce and Goal #4: Fiscal Responsibility, strengthening the County's fiscal capacity. This grant will provide funding that will be used to reduce the County's backlog of forensic DNA cases.

## FISCAL/FINANCIAL IMPACT

This grant program is for an 18-month period. Approximately $4.3 million is available to the State of California. There is no requirement for matching funds from Los Angeles County or the Sheriff's Department.

## FACTS AND PROVISIONAL/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

This Board letter has been reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel and the affected departments.

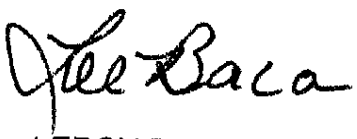
## IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

This program may create workload increases for the County Justice Departments, including the District Attorney, Public Defender, and the Alternate Public Defender, as suspects are identified from offender databases and subsequently charged with a crime. However, the benefit to the County's public safety will far outweigh the additional impact to the County Justice Departments.

**CONCLUSION**

Upon approval by your Board, the Department requests that your Board please provide four (4) individually adopted copies of this action. The Department's contact for this requested Board actions is Karen J. Anderson, Grants Manager, at (323) 526-5408.

Respectfully submitted,



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