



Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice
Executive Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser
The Wilson Building | 1350 Pennsylvania Ave, NW | Suite 513 | Washington, DC 20004

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Jenifer Smith,
Director, Department of Forensic Sciences

From: Kevin A. Donahue, *KD*
Deputy Mayor, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice

Date: February 18, 2016

Re: Re-opening the DNA lab

Following the suspension of DNA casework at the Department of Forensic Sciences in April 2015, Mayor Bowser made the decision to completely change the leadership at DFS. In addition to the change in leadership a thorough review and root cause analysis of all forensic and scientific practices used within the Forensic Biology Unit (FBU) was performed. In July 2015 the Mayor appointed you to be the Director of DFS. Under your leadership, a Unit Manager and a dedicated DNA Technical Leader were both hired to oversee and implement updated practices within the unit. This included the selection of new software to assist with interpretation of DNA evidence, extensive scientific validation studies, comprehensive trainings and presentations to members of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) and the DFS stakeholders. The FBU submitted numerous documents which supported the correction of the problems identified by their accrediting body, ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB). On February 16, 2016 after reviewing the submissions, ANAB determined that the FBU is prepared to resume DNA forensic casework under their accreditation in accordance with ISO 17025 and FBI QAS standards.

Congratulations and on behalf of Mayor Bowser please resume DNA testing as soon as you deem appropriate.