GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCES



Fiscal Year 2018 Performance Oversight Hearing

Testimony of Jenifer A. L. Smith Director

Before the Committee on the Judiciary & Public Safety Council of the District of Columbia The Honorable Charles Allen, Chairman

> John A. Wilson Building Room 123 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20004 March 1, 2019 1:00PM

Good afternoon Chairman Allen, members, and staff of the Committee on the Judiciary & Public Safety. My name is Jenifer Smith, and I am the Director of the Department of Forensic Sciences (DFS). Thank you for inviting me to testify on behalf of Mayor Muriel Bowser in today's hearing to discuss the activities and accomplishments of the Department of Forensic Sciences in Fiscal Year 2018.

Mayor Bowser's Fiscal Year 2018 budget made investments that supported our efforts to deliver on the promise of our shared DC values. These efforts include creating economic opportunity, making our neighborhoods safer, and providing more effective and efficient government services. We continue that effort as we work each day to fulfill our commitment to provide every District resident a fair shot at opportunity.

I am pleased to report on the progress that DFS has made over the past year utilizing the enhanced resources provided by Mayor Bowser in her efforts to provide safer streets for DC citizens and visitors. I value this opportunity to recognize DFS's efforts to engage our customers, improve our timeliness, maintain our quality, build toward the future, and help create a safer, stronger DC.

At the January 29, 2019 Mayor's breakfast with the Council of the District of Columbia, Deputy Mayor Kevin Donahue recognized these efforts, and DFS's role in reducing violent crime and property crimes in DC over the past three years. He observed that MPD's closure rates for those crime categories in 2014 lagged behind the national average, and that now, MPD case closure rates are beating the national average. He explained that when he queried MPD officers



concerning this improvement, investigators cited the fact that they have more physical evidence and higher-quality expert testimony at their disposal. In FY18, DFS has demonstrated that Stronger Science means Safer Streets.

The progress that has occurred has only been possible due to the Mayor's serious commitment to provide resources to the Department since taking office four years ago, complemented by the support of the Council. In addition to our "state of the art" laboratories, DFS's people continue to meet every need of our critical stakeholders. Our facilities are second to none, providing exceptional laboratories and workspaces, but this alone cannot accomplish the work of DFS. Our labs and offices are filled with capable and dedicated scientists and staff who strive daily to deliver high-quality and reliable forensic science services to critical stakeholders. I would be remiss if I didn't pause to acknowledge the incredible, and consistent efforts of the women and men who have led their teams forward through the necessary improvements to achieve many of our substantial accomplishments and help make all of our friends and neighbors in the District safer.

Under the management of Chief Operating Officer Yi-Ru Chen, our Directorate Operations & Agency Management team performs several critical functions, including procurement of supplies and equipment, hiring staff, assuring health and safety awareness, and compliance and maintenance of IT infrastructural support of vital DFS databases and information systems. In FY18, her team worked closely with DCHR to fill 40 vacancies, always ensuring that our hiring practices encouraged appropriate recruitment, unbiased selection, and efficient placement. Four years ago, DFS had no IT infrastructure in place to track critical movement of evidentiary items.



Today, the Forensic Technology Unit (FTU) manages several vital and highly-specialized systems that support the work of our agency. In FY18, FTU implemented large-scale infrastructural, core case management, and evidence analysis system upgrades with minimal disruption, allowing scientists to continue their daily critical work.

In FY18, DFS implemented efficiency measures that reduced the overall number of procurement actions from 364 in FY17 to 290 requisitions submitted to the Office of Contracting and Procurement in FY18. As an example, DFS negotiated one contract to address the maintenance and repair of numerous pieces of equipment and instruments. Previously all of these items had individual "service contracts." Establishing this contract saved tax payers an estimated \$166,000. Purchases made by DFS are managed through business processes and systems that encourage the utilization of DC-approved small and local businesses. As a result, in FY18 \$1,627,074.40 of DFS funds were redirected to small businesses that operate in the District, and the agency achieved its goal of making 50 percent of eligible purchases from DC-approved businesses.

DFS General Counsel Rashee Raj and her team of attorneys and paralegals received and handled 1,081 discovery requests meeting their Key Performance Indicator target by completing 90 percent of these discovery requests within 21 days. They also received and uploaded to our Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) 926 subpoenas and responded to 16 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests submitted to the Department. They also oversaw the creation and approval of 14 MOA/MOUs between the Department and other agencies. This team was instrumental in the creation of the rulemaking that defines the roles and responsibilities of the Science Advisory Board and establishes the reporting requirements and outside complaint



and inquiry process for DFS. Additionally, General Counsel Raj's team works closely with DC's Office of Labor Relations and Collective Bargaining (OLRCB) to maintain a healthy and collaborative relationship with DFS's three labor unions, both in the negotiation of updates to collective bargaining agreements and in the timely and efficient response to employee concerns whenever they might arise.

An experienced team of in-house, quality assurance professionals and training specialists led by Deputy Director Brittany Graham, provides oversight of all DFS units to ensure quality-driven results, and that the DFS workforce is highly trained and skilled in maintaining appropriate forensic and public health scientific programs. In FY18, the training program delivered over 3,440 hours of instruction for all three divisions of DFS, covering numerous discipline-specific subject matter areas for forensic DNA scientists, firearms examiners, fingerprint examiners, and public health lab scientists. Of note in FY18, Deputy Director Graham's team supported the successful certification of several DFS crime scene scientists by the International Association for Identification (IAI). IAI is the world's oldest and largest forensic organization. Twenty crime scene scientists participated in the IAI Certification Test Prep Course, and successfully passed certification exams as either Crime Scene Investigator (level 1) or Crime Scene Analyst (level 2).

In FY18, DFS's Training Team created and conducted a training program designed to expand competency in collaboration with a critical Stakeholder. In partnership with the Metropolitan Police Department's Crime Scene Investigations Division (MPD/CSID) and select MPD District officers, DFS created an intensive MPD Academy Crime Scene Training Program. This program equipped approximately 109 "reserve crime scene" officers and 85 recruit officers with evidence



handling skills and procedures, as well as pass/fail competencies in a range of topics including crime scene basics, crime scene diagramming and photography, report writing and latent finger print powder processes.

The Quality Team successfully led DFS through several external audits of the Forensic Science Laboratory Division (FSL) and the Public Health Laboratory Division (PHL). All FSL units continue to maintain ISO/IEC 17025:2005 accreditation in critical disciplines. Additionally, the Forensic Biology Unit successfully passed external National DNA Standard audits and, for the third year in a row, received no findings of noncompliance. The PHL successfully demonstrated compliance with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) regulatory guidelines, as well as CDC's Division of Select Agents and Toxins (DSAT). PHL also passed inspection by DC Health's Health Regulation and Licensing Administration (HRLA) and received certification to conduct laboratory testing in the District.

In FY18, DFS successfully completed establishment of the Forensic Chemistry Unit (FCU). FCU underwent two external audits for international accreditation and was awarded certifications in "Qualitative Unknown Controlled Substance" and "Quantitative Measurement Controlled Substances (heroin only)," both allowing DFS to incrementally take over the testing responsibilities for the District's illicit substance cases from the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). As FY18 drew to a close, the Digital Evidence Unit (DEU) participated in their first ISO/IEC 17025:2005 audit. DEU passed the audit, and was granted accreditation under the scope of Computer Forensics and Mobile Forensics in the second quarter of FY19.



Deputy Director Graham led the DFS effort for educational outreach and conducted several programs to help create the next generation of public service scientists. As a former educator, I know the importance of engaging students as early as possible and exposing them to jobs in realworld laboratories. At DFS, we have made a conscious effort to open our labs and initiate partnerships with schools and universities so that, through immersive experiences like internships, students can experience the realities of working in a laboratory. In FY18, we attracted 38 interns by way of myriad feeder programs across the country including the U.S. Army, the D.C. Department of Disability Services, the National Institutes of Health, McKinley Technology High School, and multiple colleges and universities. We also support internship initiatives prioritized by the Mayor's office, including the District Leadership and Marion S. Barry Summer Youth Employment Programs that promote employment opportunities that build pathways to the middle class. Our internships provide students with practical experience and the type of exposure needed to strongly consider careers in forensic science. From mentorship and shadowing opportunities to conducting research and data collection; our internship projects run the gamut and are based on students' grade level, background, experience and interests.

Under the leadership of Director Karen Wiggins, DFS continued to see dramatic improvement in services within the Forensic Science Laboratory Division (FSL). This past year, all four operational units within the FSL demonstrated a greater efficiency and improved the time it takes to deliver results. In FY18, all four operational units within FSL had two Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):



- The percentage of priority cases as designated by the contributor and marked in LIMS completed within 60 days from the date the analyst was assigned the case. Target = 90%
- Percentage of requested homicide cases completed within 60 days from the date the analyst was assigned the case. Target = 90%

Firearms are used in some of the most heinous of crimes including rape, robberies, homicides and assaults. It is the job of the Firearms Examination Unit (FEU) to examine and compare firearms as well as the tool marks left behind on evidence when a harder object encounters a softer one. Throughout FY18, FEU exceeded both of the FSL KPIs, consistently performing at 100 percent for priority and 95 percent or better for homicide cases. In FY18, FEU completed 767 cases with an average turnaround time (TAT) of 4.25 days. FEU had an average backlog of 701 cases at the end of FY18. FEU conducted 1,981 test fires of weapons received by DFS. In FY17, FEU was sub-awarded a **Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC)** grant for approximately \$500,000 to help streamline processes for the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN). This intergovernmental, multidisciplinary initiative supports agencies in their efforts to more rapidly identify perpetrators, link criminal activities, and identify sources of crime guns for immediate disruption, investigation, and prosecution. Due to efficient use of funds in FY18, the award will continue to support the division through FY19.

In FY18, the Forensic Biology Unit (FBU) received 268 sexual assault kits. All of these kits were worked within DFS. The average turnaround time for testing sexual assault kits was 64 days. The majority of kits (264) were completed within 90 days. However, due to the inability to receive permission to consume from attorneys, four kits exceeded the 90 day TAT outlined in the Sexual Assault Victims' Rights Amendment Act (SAVRAA), varying from 98 days to 301 days.



The average permission to consume delay was 8 days, ranging from 0 days to 265 days. FBU continues to operate without any backlog of sexual assault kits. DNA testing was conducted on 1302 additional cases. Of these cases, 657 were processed by external laboratories; however, 645 cases were handled internally with an average turnaround time of 35 days. Throughout FY18, FBU exceeded both of the FSL KPIs, performing at 98 percent or better with respect to processing priority cases within 60 days, and 95 percent or greater when handling homicide cases.

Data produced by the FBU was published in the May 2018 volume of the internationallyrecognized professional journal *Forensic Science International: Genetics*. This article was a multi-laboratory response to erroneous reporting by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology about the use of DNA interpretation software called STRmix® currently in use at DFS. By obtaining publication of DFS validation data, along with other leading members in the field, this supports the use of revolutionary technology in the forensic DNA field. Using their new approach to mixture interpretation, DNA analysts found that they are more likely to discern DNA profiles from complex mixtures of sufficient quality for inclusion in the FBI's Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), a vast improvement from their previous manual mixture deconvolution procedure.

Our Latent Fingerprint Unit (LFU) scientists examine latent fingerprints or marks left at the scene of a crime that may or may not be immediately visible to the naked eye. To expose the prints, scientists often use fingerprint powder, fuming, and other techniques to reveal valuable information. Once fingerprints are uncovered, the information is entered into the Automated



Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), a biometric database that uses digital imaging technology to obtain, store, and analyze fingerprint data. The results are either an identification (or match) or an exclusion. In FY 18 LFU worked 2,972 cases with an average TAT of 11.25 days. Throughout FY18, LFU far exceeded both of the FSL KPI targets, processing 100 percent of their priority cases and homicides within 60 days. LFU currently has no backlog of cases.

Our Digital Evidence Unit (DEU) Scientists are responsible for extracting and analyzing seized digital evidence from nearly any form and from any device (e.g., smartphones, personal computers, vehicles, credit card skimmers, video). These scientists and the systems they use must continuously evolve in step with our world's constant technological developments, so that they can ensure DC residents and visitors may safely engage in their multiplicity of electronic transactions, every day within the District. The DEU actively monitors the digital landscape for cases involving malware, unauthorized network intrusions, and data breaches. In FY18, DEU acquired the capability to examine the most secure smartphones and, in the process, literally unlocked a world of data that was previously unattainable. Our lab is the second in the country to acquire this capability. In FY 18 DEU worked 636 cases with an average TAT of 5.2 days. Throughout FY18, DEU far exceeded both of the FSL KPI targets, processing 100 percent of their priority cases and homicides within 60 days.

In FY18, FSL fully utilized three critical national intelligence databases: National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN), Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), and Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). In FY18, FEU enrolled 3,667 casings into NIBIN, which led to 834 investigative hits. LFU entered 9,268 latent fingerprints into the AFIS



database, which led to 2,112 investigative hits. FBU entered 581 DNA profiles into CODIS, which led to 209 CODIS hits. Information from these databases provided new leads to investigators to identify perpetrators, link crime scenes together, and identify sources of gun crimes for immediate disruption, investigation, and prosecution.

The Forensic Intelligence Unit (FIU) is charged with ensuring that evidence submitted to the FSL is prioritized, subjected to all appropriate testing, and reported in a timely and efficient manner. FIU acts as a statistical review board of sorts, following FSL's reports through their return to DFS stakeholder agencies, and tracking the effects and impacts of FSL's testing. FIU performs statistical analyses of these effects and impacts to ensure FSL's resources are being appropriately deployed in support of District residents. FIU completed a total of 3,926 requests from key stakeholder agencies, 200 more requests than last fiscal year. This unit provides an invaluable service to the following agencies: the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), the United States Attorney's Office (USAO), the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia (OAG), the Office of the Inspector General for the District of Columbia (OIG), and a host of others including the United States Park Police, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the Federal Protective Service and the Metro Transit Police Department.

In FY18 FIU collaborated with MPD's Investigative Services Branch to determine the criminal justice impact of various pieces of forensic evidence. Impact, in these cases, is defined by evidence that leads to an arrest, confirmation of an arrestee or provides an investigative lead.



- Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS): FIU ran 1,362 latent fingerprints through AFIS, a biometric database that uses digital imaging technology to obtain, store, and analyze fingerprint data. More than 70 percent had a criminal justice impact.
- Combined DNA Index System (CODIS): Scientists use CODIS to search DNA profiles to
 possibly link serial violent crimes to each other and to known offenders. CODIS yielded 329
 hits or matches for offenses ranging from robberies, carjacking and property crimes, to sex
 cases, assaults and incidences that resulted in death. Of these hits, more than 90 percent had a
 criminal justice impact.
- National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN): There were also outcomes of forensic intelligence linking NIBIN hits to MPD cases. Of the 834 NIBIN hits, 93 percent (772 hits) are linking MPD cases to each other, and the remaining 7 percent (62 NIBIN hits) are linking MPD cases to cross-border jurisdictions.

The Crime Scene Sciences Division (CSS) plays a vital role in the District's response to crime and crime scenes. The CSS documents, collects, preserves and stores evidence found at crime scenes within the District. The CSS team consists of 80 specially trained individuals, 16 of which were hired in FY18, including the division's new Director, retired Metropolitan Police Department Commander Christopher LoJacono. In FY18 Crime Scene Sciences Unit (CSSU) personnel handled 9,227 crime scene service requests to include processing 5,879 crime scenes. Their average response time to the scene was 25 minutes and their average report TAT was seven days, a decrease in TAT from 35 days during fiscal year 2017. The Central Evidence Unit (CEU), which is responsible for the secure intake, storage, and maintenance of evidence and property submitted to DFS, received 74,360 pieces of evidence in FY18, a 6.8 percent increase



over FY17 totals. CEU personnel have also dramatically reduced the amount of evidence stored at DFS. Working closely with their partners at MPD's Evidence Control Branch (ECB), CEU eliminated the backlog of 1,000 firearms in the storage vault and significantly reduced the backlog of stored buccal swabs from approximately 20,000 down to 4,500. Additionally, the CSS provided oversight for the formation and training of 54 DFS scientists that make up the OCME/DFS Joint Mass Fatality Response Team.

Under the direction of Dr. Anthony Tran, the Public Health Laboratory (PHL) conducts testing of public health significance, and extends locally important testing provided at the federal level by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The PHL provides clinical diagnostic testing, disease surveillance, emergency response support, applied research, laboratory training, and other essential services through its six units: Accessioning Unit (ASU), Microbiology Unit (MBU), Biomonitoring and Analytical Chemistry Unit (BACU), Immunology Virology Unit (IVU), Molecular Diagnostic Unit (MDU), and the newly opened Forensic Chemistry Unit (FCU).

In FY18, PHL performed 4,133 test procedures including influenza subtyping, rabies testing, arbovirus screening, and testing for foodborne outbreaks. PHL, in partnership with DC Health, made several significant improvements to the detection process for West Nile Virus (WNV) and Zika in the District. One change involved altering the traps used to collect mosquitoes to ensure scientists were targeting the correct species and collecting larger quantities for testing. The other involved adding collection sites on national parks including the National Mall. In addition, PHL brought online two new singleplex assays for WNV and Zika; exchanged the enzyme used to



amplify nucleic acid targets to a more sensitive enzyme; and introduced a new extraction method. These collective efforts improved detection of WNV by 10 percent in FY18. In total, 566 mosquito pools were collected from May 1st to November 2nd. PHL detected WNV in 45 pools from 12 sites in the District. All 566 mosquito pools have been negative for Zika virus detection. In FY18 the PHL continued to conduct critical rabies testing for the District and they successfully reduced TAT for rabies testing with results reported within 24 hours. They tested 243 samples with 14 animals positive for rabies, including 13 raccoons and one bat.

In FY18 the PHL also established the DC Influenza Surveillance Program ensuring that they met the CDC's national requirements for influenza virologic surveillance in order to support disease surveillance, response and control efforts, and policy decisions. As a result, PHL tested nearly 700 percent more samples during FY18 than FY17 (558 vs. 80). For the first time in several years, DC statistics were considered for response to the FY19 influenza season.

PHL is a member of the National Laboratory Response Network (LRN) for the detection of bio and chemical terrorism. As a Tier I Laboratory, PHL has both the competency and capacity to test for Category A biological terrorism (BT) agents, as well as detect any emerging diseases. In FY18, the FBI submitted 23 samples for a total of 68 specimens. This is up from 6 samples totaling 18 specimens in FY17. This is an increase of nearly 400 percent from FY17. Testing for all samples was conducted and results were reported within 24 hours.

After receiving ISO 17025 accreditation in February the FCU assumed full responsibility for processing all federal drug cases in the District from the US Drug Enforcement Agency on April

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1, 2018. FCU is now fully equipped to independently process and test drug evidence in the same facility, greatly increasing DFS's ability to get timely and accurate information out to the public.

In FY18, FCU analyzed over 100 exhibits for stakeholders including OCME, the Department of Corrections (DOC), and MPD. During the summer's spike in K2 overdoses, FCU demonstrated their ability for swift and accurate testing by recognizing that a new K2 was on the streets of DC. FCU has discovered two new synthetic cannabinoids and four synthetic opioids in FY18. Using data and demonstrated capability, FCU worked with DC Health to secure \$1,070,314 for the recent Cooperative Agreement for Emergency Response: Public Health Crisis Response 2018 Opioid Overdose Crisis Cooperative Agreement Supplemental, prepared by DC Health. This will allow DFS to conduct analysis of all opioids collected in FY19. This will satisfy a critical portion of the DC Opioid Strategy, Live Long DC.

DFS continues to embrace our role as an independent laboratory while we strengthen our engagement with the community. Community outreach is critical to DFS's mission. It is the vehicle by which we engage with and educate District residents about our work, continue to build trust in DFS's services within our neighborhoods and support a robust S.T.E.M. career pipeline for District residents and those that choose to work in our city. In FY18, we formalized our outreach approach, creating four categories of outreach highlighted below. Our focus for the year was on offering building tours, conducting educational outreach to students in kindergarten through the 12th grade (K-12), providing mentorship and education to those attending local universities and colleges and creating partnerships that foster support for self-sustaining science and safer streets. Highlights from DFS Outreach events are as follows:



People and Culture: The scientists, laboratorians, senior leaders, administrative staff and interns that do the important work of this agency are our *People*. It is our job as an agency to ensure they receive training, education and the support needed to continue to deliver on our commitment of self-sufficient science and safer streets. Equally as important is the *Culture* that we create for our people. We want to build comradery and a support system that creates an enabling environment, and recognize individuals and teams for their work. To that end, FY18 brought with it several People and Culture initiatives including:

- Inaugural DFS Awards Ceremony: This ceremony was designed to celebrate our 5th anniversary and acknowledge outstanding contributions from the DFS team. The event was organized by the DFS Awards Committee consisting of volunteer DFS employees. Employees were nominated by their peers and recognized across several categories including: Employee of the Year; Supervisor of the Year; Years of Service Award; Gauntlet Award for Teams; and the Phoenix Award, a one-time recognition of DFS employees and external agencies and individuals outside DFS for their leadership and creative solutions.
- Labor Management Forum: Each month, designated DFS Management meets with DFS employees in NAGE in constructive dialogue to address any issues that have arisen.
- **Purple Thursday**: Our employee-wide initiative to wear purple in observance of Domestic Violence Month.



- Celebrate our Veterans: On Veteran's Day, DFS saluted veterans for their service to our country and for their contributions to forensic science.
- **2018 DFS Family Day:** DFS opened its doors to the family members (and friends) of our employees. Family Day promoted another opportunity for individuals external to the organization to see, touch and experience some of the critical forensic science work underway in the District to improve the safety of our residents.
- Health and Wellness Initiatives: This year, DFS opened two rooms (a lactation room and a women's locker room) devoted to promoting health and wellness, providing support for new mothers, and offering a space devoted to the overall wellbeing of our employees. Also, in support of health and wellness, our staff participated in the National Police Week 5K, a five kilometer run/walk in remembrance of the 23,000+ fallen officers who gave their lives in the line of duty.

DFS Educates & Mentors: DFS engages in a range of programs designed to build awareness of the ongoing and vitally important work of our agency and to promote careers in forensic science and other S.T.E.M. fields. In FY18, we organized, participated in and/or lead the following initiatives:

• **K-12 Educational Outreach:** DFS scientists and staff participated in several outreach programs designed to help elementary, middle and high school students understand some of the work we perform at the agency. We attended Patterson and Simon Elementary Schools



and gave presentation and fingerprinting demonstrations to students. We also conducted outreach and presentations at Excel Academy, Coolidge High School Public Health Academy and Anacostia High School Public Safety Academy.

• Outreach to Local Universities and Colleges: DFS staff gave student and faculty presentations to a several universities including Georgetown University, The George Washington University, American University and George Mason University.

Special Projects & Initiatives: Each year DFS supports several special projects and initiatives that are cross cutting in nature and that involve stakeholders from across the District. In FY18, we organized, participated in and/or lead the following initiatives:

- National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week: We conducted a fun-filled week of educational activities to celebrate medical laboratory professionals within the building.
- National Forensic Science Week: This local event was held September 12-21, 2018 and included a myriad of activities to include an evening community outreach event that brought together 150 individuals across the city to learn about the power of forensic science and how it is used to keep our streets safe. A key feature of our event was the agency's first ever Facebook Live event that reached nearly 1,000 residents and yielded 11 shares and 475 views.



I could not be more proud of the work DFS has done in FY18, or more confident that in FY19 we will deliver even greater returns for the people of DC. I would like to acknowledge Mayor Bowser and her staff for their continuous and generous support of DFS as we strive to realize her vision of a safer, stronger DC. I would also like to recognize Deputy Mayor Donahue, his staff, and our public safety partner department leaders who continue to support DFS. I am thankful for the tireless efforts of the women and men who work within the offices and laboratories of DFS, whose stronger science has led to safer streets for all of our friends and neighbors. In closing, I would like to thank you for your leadership and support. We appreciate the opportunity to share our accomplishments and plans for even higher achievement in the coming year, and look forward to continuing to work with the Committee. This concludes my testimony.

