



TEXAS FORENSIC
SCIENCE COMMISSION

Justice Through Science

*1700 North Congress Ave., Suite 445
Austin, Texas 78701*

April 26, 2023

Via e-mail to Casandra.setser@fortworthtexas.gov

Dr. Casandra Setser
Fort Worth Police Department Crime Laboratory
3616 East Lancaster
Fort Worth, Texas 76103

Re: Texas Forensic Science Commission ("Commission") Laboratory Self-disclosure
No. 23.02; Fort Worth Police Department Crime Laboratory (Quality Assurance)

Dr. Setser:

At its April 14, 2023, quarterly meeting, the Commission voted to take no further action on the referenced laboratory disclosure due to the lack of findings after additional investigation by the laboratory, and response by the former employee indicating the initial allegations were unfounded.

Upon receipt of the disclosure, both the Commission and ANAB wrote the laboratory requesting supplemental information and emphasizing the importance of including any supportive information the laboratory may have in its possession describing how the concerns came to the laboratory management's attention. The Commission and ANAB also requested an explanation regarding the extent of the loss of data and types of data alleged to have been lost. The laboratory was unable to provide further information at that time.

While the Commission appreciates and encourages timely disclosure, the repercussions for the criminal justice system may be severe when a laboratory makes significant allegations that may rise to the level of professional misconduct against a former employee, especially one with responsibility over the entire quality system. Laboratories have the option of contacting the Commission to inform staff of a potential issue or concern when initially identified and follow with a written disclosure once the laboratory has developed a better sense of the scope of the issue or concern. We encourage FWPDCL to take this approach in the future should similar circumstances arise.

Thank you and please feel free to contact Commission staff with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Leigh M. Tomlin

Leigh M. Tomlin
Associate General Counsel

cc: Michael Ward via e-mail Michael.ward@fortworthtexas.gov
Melissa Kennedy via e-mail Melissa.kennedy@anab.org
Daniel R. Monte via e-mail drmonte@tarrantcountytexas.gov