

# DNA Laboratory Project

Wake County Public Safety Committee

May 17, 2021

Sam Pennica, CCBI Director

@wakegov



wakegov.com

# Evolution of Technology

- In 1937, CCBI began providing forensic services and conducting fingerprint examinations utilizing technologies available at that time.
- Except for DNA services, CCBI now provides forensic services consistent with the crime laboratories of most large metropolitan areas in the US.

# Benefits of DNA Testing

- DNA testing is an extremely accurate forensic technique for identifying criminal suspects and protecting society from criminal acts.
- DNA testing has also exonerated numerous individuals of historical wrongful convictions.
- The major benefit of DNA testing is its ability to demonstrate statistical measurements of certainty when associating individuals to crime scene evidence.

# NC Survivor Act

- Designed to eliminate inventory backlogs of untested Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits and prevent future backlogs.
- Requires Law Enforcement Agencies to inventory, prioritize and submit Sexual Assault Kits to the North Carolina State Crime Laboratory (NCSCCL) for analysis within 45 days.
- Became law September 2019 (SL. 2019-221).
- Places no direct requirement for action on CCBI, but has increased the number of kits the NCSCCL is currently receiving.

# NCSCCL Statistics - April 2021

In April 2021, information provided by NCSCCL showed:

1119 Sexual Assault Kits from Wake County has been submitted to the NCSCCL.

- 528 has been outsourced to a private laboratory
- 591 remain to be outsourced

912 of the 1119 were submitted by the Raleigh Police Department.

- 332 has been outsourced to a private laboratory
- 580 remain to be outsourced

\* Note - Sexual Assault Kits are triaged by the NCSCCL before being outsourced.

# NCSCCL Statistics - April 2021 – Cont'd.

In addition to the Sexual Assault Kits pending analysis, 229 other DNA cases submitted from Wake County are pending analysis by the NCSCCL:

- Homicide/assaults/armed robbery - 30
- Property crimes/home invasion - 55
- Sexual offenses/child abuse - 139
- Firearms - 3
- Cruelty to animals - 2

# CCBI Mission and Core Values

DNA Testing Services will provide essential forensic services to Wake County and support CCBI's:

- Mission to "... continuously strive for perfection while setting the highest standards in crime scene investigation (and) forensic analysis of evidence ...".
- Commitment to the Core Values of "...Fairness, Professionalism, Compassion, Public Trust..."

# Wake County BOC- Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

DNA Testing Services will provide essential forensic services to Wake County and support the Board of Commissioner's Goals, Objectives, and Strategies to:

(2020)

- GG2: Improve effectiveness, efficiency, transparency, and responsiveness through innovation and technology.
- GG4: Utilize data-driven decision-making processes and methods wherever possible.
- PS1: Develop strategies to build trust, cooperation and accountability among agencies, programs and initiatives that incorporate public safety agencies and resources throughout the county.

(2021)

- PS1: Address equity in the criminal justice system.
- PS3: Provide high quality and sustainable public safety services to meet the community's current and future needs.

# Costs and Timeline for DNA Laboratory

DNA will generate additional court ordered laboratory fees for CCBI when individuals are convicted of crimes through the analysis of DNA evidence.

- |                     |           |   |
|---------------------|-----------|---|
| • Design            | \$47,000  | Lab Fee Funds - in progress                   |
| • Construction      | \$360,000 | Lab Fee Funds - Dec 2021                      |
| • Salary & Benefits | \$175,000 | Expansion - July 2022                         |
| • Equipment         | \$500,000 | Earmark - Jan 2022 or<br>Wake CIP - July 2023 |

US Congressional Representative Deborah Ross has made the equipment cost one of her FY2022 Community Project Funding requests.



# Questions?