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June 20, 2006

Chauncey Parker
Director, New York Department of Criminal Justice Services
Via fax

Dear Mr. Parker:

Yesterday, you told the media that more than 500 convictions were the direct result of “hits” to the state DNA database. This surprised the Innocence Project, as we understood from the only known, published DCJS report on the issue, *The First 100 Hits – Forensic Offender Matches on the New York State DNA Data Bank* (January 2002), that of the first 100 “hits” to the state DNA database, only 4 resulted in convictions within the year and a half studied.

Therefore, we are very interested to know if:

- 1) Further such tracking of “hits to convictions” has provided documentation to show that New York’s track record is in fact better than DCJS’s only published study suggests; and
- 2) If so, how you tracked that data to come to your claim yesterday.

To that end, we hope that DCJS can provide us with answers to the following questions in order that the Legislature might best assess the benefit of expanding the reach of the State DNA Database this session.

Regarding “hits” from New York crime scene DNA to the New York State Designated Offender DNA Database:

- How many total “hits” have been counted to date?
- How many “hits” were to crimes already solved?
- How many provided evidence of the crime scene presence of an existing suspect?
- How many provided evidence of the crime scene presence of a suspect previously not considered?
- How many “hits” resulted in no documented investigation?
- How many “hits” resulted in documented investigations?
- How many “hits” resulted in arrests?



- How many “hits” resulted in indictment or an information filed?
- How many “hits” resulted in convictions of a misdemeanor?
- How many “hits” resulted in convictions of a felony?
- How many “hits” resulted in a sentence of incarceration?

This information would be a tremendous benefit to the public and legislative debate on this issue. For as the *First 100 hits* report concluded, “...the ability to monitor the performance of this (State DNA Data Bank) system, to use it effectively in the formulation of policy and to improve law enforcement operations cannot be fully realized until it is better integrated with other criminal justice information systems, including those that report on case processing... Simple but fundamental changes in reporting requirements by law enforcement agencies and forensic laboratories need to be initiated before the operations aspects of the DNA Data Bank become inundated by the very success of the program.” (p. 7)

Thank you in advance for your prompt response to these important questions. New Yorkers need to know.

Very Truly Yours,

Stephen Saloom, Esq.
Policy Director