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JOHN CULBERSON
7TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1728 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4307
202.225.2571
FAX 202.225.4381

DISTRICT OFFICE:
10000 MEMORIAL DRIVE, SUITE 620
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77024-3490
713.682.8828
FAX: 713.680.8070

INTERNET:
WWW.CULBERSON.HOUSE.GOV

March 31, 2004

The Honorable Frank Wolf
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, Judiciary, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
H-309, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jose Serrano
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, Judiciary, and Related
Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
H-309, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Serrano:

I am respectfully requesting \$775,000 from the Community Oriented Policing Services, Law Enforcement Technology Account in the FY2005 Commerce, Justice, State, Judiciary and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for the City of Houston.

The City of Houston is implementing a Crime Laboratory Technology Improvements project for the Houston Police Department. This initiative will enable HPD to secure a Laboratory Information Management System to facilitate the collection, storage, and retrieval of information relative to evidence collected from criminal cases. This project will fund much needed technological improvements that will increase efficiency and establish a seamless integration with local and national criminal justice systems.

On average, HPD's Crime Lab processes more than 50,000 pieces of evidence from more than 15,000 criminal cases each year, conducting more than 100,000 individual analyses. To continue providing services on such a large scale, safeguards must be implemented to ensure the integrity of all evidence analyzed. Among the lab's most critical needs is a Laboratory Information Management System to manage and monitor all of the evidence associated with the large numbers of cases handled by the lab. This system will allow managers to track each piece of evidence throughout the crime laboratory. The system will provide needed tools to crime lab management, enabling them to retrieve statistical data on caseload distribution and turn-around time, and helping them assess resource

allocation needs. These tools are critical to achieving stability within the lab and document reliability as evidence is presented in court trials.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



John Culberson
Member of Congress

*Thank you
as a Chairman and our Seniors!*

