



August 6, 2021

Anthony Crispino
Interim Director
Department of Forensic Services
401 E Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Interim Director Crispino:

I write to tell you that the Office of the District of Columbia Auditor (ODCA) is initiating a Legislative Compliance Audit of the reporting, handling, and resolution of disputes and errors in the analysis and reporting of evidence by the Department of Forensic Sciences (DFS) as set forth in D.C. Code § 5-1501.10 - §5-1501.14.

ODCA's mission is to support the Council of the District of Columbia by making sound recommendations that improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability of the District government. Our audits and evaluations provide valuable insight regarding whether an agency's business practices are efficient, its policies and procedures are effective, its internal controls need to be improved, and its programs are delivering the intended results.

This audit will cover October 1, 2020, through May 31, 2021. The audit will focus on the legislative goal of an independent forensics agency and our preliminary objectives are to:

- 1) Determine whether the reporting, handling, and resolution of the allegations of professional negligence, misconduct, and testing errors at the D.C Department of Forensic Sciences complied with the requirements of D.C. Code § 5-1501 and industry standards.
- 2) Determine the nature and extent of DFS compliance with the applicable laws and its internal processes governing the investigation, processing, and handling of disputes and errors in the testing and evaluation of forensic evidence.

We expect to begin the review on **August 16, 2021**, and conclude the review in approximately six months. This timeline assumes that the scope of our audit remains consistent with the audit objectives, though we reserve the right to adjust the scope and/or timeline of our audit as we gather additional information. We will notify you promptly of any such changes.

The audit will include interviews with staff members and other stakeholders, and a review and analysis of applicable laws, rules, and regulations, policies and procedures, budget and expenditure reports, and program data and reports.

Senior Auditor/Analyst Nelson Abel will lead our team on this engagement. Please designate a representative from your agency to act as a liaison to facilitate the flow of records and information and, as needed, coordinate access to the appropriate members of your staff. Please provide Mr. Abel with the name and contact information of the liaison by **August 19, 2021**. Mr. Abel can be reached at [REDACTED] or nelson.abel2@dc.gov.

We also would like to schedule an introductory meeting the week of **August 23, 2021**, at which you and your team will have an opportunity to meet the staff members conducting the audit and to discuss the purpose, process, and timeline. The audit team will address any concerns regarding the audit process. Mr. Abel will work with your liaison to schedule that meeting.

In preparation for the meeting, we would appreciate receiving the information requested in the attached **Audit Information Request Form** by **Thursday, August 19, 2021**. Please contact Mr. Abel with any questions about the information requested.

We look forward to working with you and your staff. Please do not hesitate to contact me at kathy.patterson@dc.gov or (202) 727-8982 if you have questions.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Kathleen Patterson
District of Columbia Auditor

cc: Christopher Geldart, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety
Councilmember Charles Allen, Chair, Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety
Dr. Jeanne Anne Jordan, Chairperson, DFS Science Advisory Board
Helder Gil, Chief of Staff, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice

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