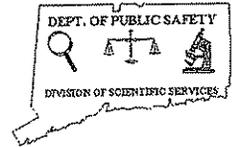




STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF SCIENTIFIC SERVICES



Lieutenant David E. Rice
Commanding Officer

Dr. Henry C. Lee
Chief Emeritus

January 24, 2008

The Honorable Ernest Hewett
The Honorable Charles Clemons
Connecticut State Representatives
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Representative Hewett and Representative Clemons:

My name is Dr. Henry C. Lee. I am currently the Chief Emeritus for the Connecticut Department of Public Safety, Division of Scientific Services and was the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety from 1998 to 2000. I served as Chief Criminalist for the State of Connecticut from 1979 to 2000. I am the person who set-up the forensic testing program for the State of Connecticut.

Due to a prior commitment I am sorry but I am unable to personally appear before your committee. I would like to offer my testimony for the record as it relates to the issue of evidence collection standards.

I have been in the forensic field for almost 50 years. It is a common practice to collect control/elimination samples from investigators and laboratory scientists working at a crime scene. These samples included samples of hair, shoe outsole patterns, fingerprints, blood and DNA. The purpose of collecting these control samples is for comparison against the collected evidence, which distinguishes its origin from a suspect or those who have legitimate access to the scene and or evidence.

Visual and microscopic examinations of hairs found at the crime scene can be categorized by using racial characteristics (Caucasian, Negroid and Mongoloid - type) that are the standard technique used within forensic science. Generally known exemplars needed for comparison maybe taken from individuals at the crime scene that would be included in that racial group.

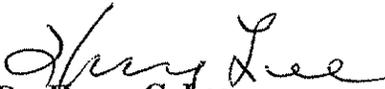
Just last year I was investigating a homicide. At the crime scene, we recovered DNA evidence, from a partially eaten meal that had been discarded. A DNA sample was

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collected from everyone at the crime scene to eliminate complications that might arise in a future court trial. The DNA extracted from the evidence was compared to the DNA control samples. By comparing samples, the investigators were able to eliminate everyone at the crime scene as possible source. As soon as DNA analyses are conducted those samples are either destroyed or returned to the person contributing the sample.

The Connecticut Forensic Science Laboratory is ASCLD-LAB Accredited and meets or exceeds standard procedures and strict guidelines for handling control samples. I would be happy to meet with the committee to answer any questions they might have regarding the issue.

Sincerely,


Dr. Henry C. Lee