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## Riverside County Sheriff's Department

*Chad Bianco, Sheriff-Coroner*

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April 4, 2022

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
US House of Representatives  
2205 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Email Delivery to [chandler.m.smith@mail.house.gov](mailto:chandler.m.smith@mail.house.gov)

**RE: FY 2023 Commerce, Justice and Science Funding Request**

Dear Congressman Calvert:

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department has identified a new technology that could change the way we respond to disasters, initiate criminal investigations, and manage resources. With Community Project Funding officially announced for FY 2023 appropriations bills, we see this as our chance to incorporate the new technology and bring the desired reform to fruition.

The new technology is Rapid DNA. Many law enforcement agencies across the country have started using it. And although it has a relatively short track record, it is impressive. The Bensalem Township PD has seen a 42% reduction in property crime; Kauai PD saved thousands of dollars on one disaster response; crime labs have seen backlog reductions due to the reduced workload that Rapid DNA provides.

All of this is possible due to the automation of DNA analysis. Rapid DNA can be operated by law enforcement officers and turns samples in 90 minutes. Minimal training is required. Once the instrument has been correctly setup, the department can begin processing simple DNA samples that would otherwise sit in the crime lab's backlog. What once was considered low priority and resulted in months of waiting-including property crimes, disaster victim identification and investigative leads- can now be processed immediately.

We respectfully ask that you pursue \$515,000 from the FY 2023 Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations bill to help Riverside County acquire this breakthrough technology.

Sincerely,

CHAD BIANCO, SHERIFF





MICHAEL A. HESTRIN  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

OFFICE OF  
THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE  
3960 ORANGE STREET  
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92501-3643

March 30, 2022

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2205 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Support Letter - Support for Riverside County Sheriff's Funding Request**

Dear Representative Calvert:

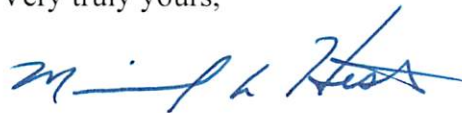
I am writing to support the Riverside County Sheriff Office's request for Rapid DNA. I offer my endorsement of the Office's request and ask that you support the Riverside County project for Congressionally Directed Spending in the FY 2023 appropriations process.

Keeping the community safe is a responsibility that falls on the shoulders of both prosecutors and law enforcement. Forensic DNA has been a valuable tool for prosecutors throughout the state in holding the guilty accountable, while at the same time exonerating the innocent. With Rapid DNA, we now have an opportunity to insert this incredibly important public safety tool into an earlier point in criminal cases – to actually generate leads, and not just confirm guilt. Through quick and automated DNA analysis, requiring limited scientific expertise, the Riverside County Sheriff's Office has a great opportunity to improve public safety and community relations. Rapid DNA is the next great tool to help our Offices collaborate and foster a safer community for our citizens.

Additionally, scarce resources are a constant problem at the crime lab; a critical partner in this perpetual project of public safety. However, the crime lab typically does not have the staffing capabilities or the time to analyze every DNA sample from every unsolved crime. Rapid DNA reduces this burden from the crime lab and provides an opportunity for investigators to identify science-based investigative leads on "simple" DNA cases – leaving the more complex cases, and those going to trial, to the crime lab.

Please let me know if you have any questions. The Riverside County District Attorney's Office believes this would be a valuable project for our community.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Hestrin", with a stylized flourish at the end.

MICHAEL A. HESTRIN  
District Attorney

MAH:sh



# GREATER RIVERSIDE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

*The Chamber...building a stronger local economy*

March 23, 2022

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2205 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Riverside County Sheriff's Office Rapid DNA Project – SUPPORT**

Dear Congressman Calvert,

On behalf of the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce, representing over 1,200 local employers and 110,000 jobs in the Inland Southern California region, I am writing in regards to our support for the Riverside County Sheriff's Office funding request for Rapid DNA. This tool will enhance the department's ability to quickly analyze evidence in a matter of minutes and helps to better identify suspects, particularly those engaged in property crimes.

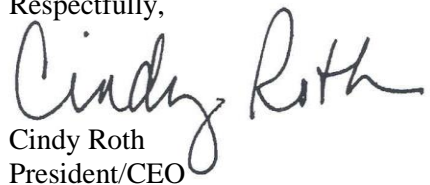
Rapid DNA allows officers to generate quick investigative leads and avoid the crime lab altogether. As a result, this will reduce backlogs and costs on local law enforcement agencies and better identify suspects on a solid scientific foundation. This technology has already been deployed in several types of crime scenes and will undoubtedly reduce backlogs and costs on local law enforcement agencies while creating stronger, safer communities.

Businesses are frequently victims of property crime. However, due to lack of resources, most evidence and DNA samples from the scene of property crime are not thoroughly analyzed. Rapid DNA offers a solution that reduces the burden on crime labs and provides immediate results to offer justice for businesses and members of the community that are victims of a crime.

For these reasons, we respectfully support the Riverside County Sheriff's Office Rapid DNA Funding request. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 951-683-7100.

Thank you for your consideration.

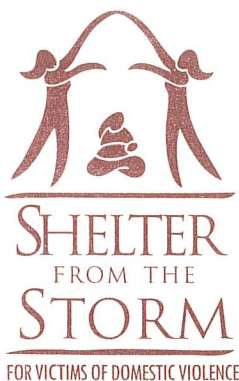
Respectfully,



Cindy Roth  
President/CEO

CR/as





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73-550 Alessandro Dr., Ste. #103, Palm Desert, CA 92260 · Fed I.D. 33-0293124  
Phone: (760) 674-0400 Fax: (760) 674-0440 · [www.shelterfromthestorm.com](http://www.shelterfromthestorm.com)  
**24-Hour Crisis Hot Line: (760) 328-SAFE or 1-800-775-6055**

March 17, 2022

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2205 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Endorsement of Riverside County Sheriff's Office Rapid DNA Project

Dear Congressman Ken Calvert:

Shelter From The Storm, Inc. (SFTS) the only comprehensive supportive services and shelter provide for victims/survivors of intimate partner domestic violence, fully supports Riverside County Sheriff's request for funding for Rapid DNA. We are all painfully aware of sexual assault and the toll it takes on our society. As advocates for sexual assault and domestic violence awareness and prevention, we think Rapid DNA will play a critical role in quickly solving more sexual assault crimes. We respectfully request you fully consider Riverside County Sheriff's Office for funding.

We have all heard the stories about backlogs at the crime lab. There is a perpetually growing log of samples that need to be analyzed for sexual assault, homicide, violent crimes, domestic violence, etc. In large part, this is due to limited resources and the intensive labor requirement of DNA analysis at the lab. Rapid DNA allows deputies and officers within sheriff's and police departments to analyze many samples themselves. This leads to a direct reduction of the number of cases that pile up, allowing forensic scientists to focus on the complex casework often related to sexual assault.

This will have a tremendous benefit in Riverside County. Many women are waiting to receive answers and results in hopes of bringing their assailants to justice. Not only will the crime lab have more resources available to tackle these cases more quickly, but deputies within the Sheriff's Department will be able to quickly generate investigative leads through Rapid DNA. We see a multifaceted benefit as a result of the Rapid DNA Project in the Riverside Sheriff's Office via approval of their funding application.

In summary, Rapid DNA will help Riverside County in its fight against sexual assault. Please let me know if you have any further questions. I can be reached via email: [Angelina@shelterfromthestorm.com](mailto:Angelina@shelterfromthestorm.com) or directly by mobile number: 760-834-1862. Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

Angelina Coe  
Executive Director  
Shelter From The Storm, Inc. (SFTS)



PO Box 7295 Riverside, CA 92513  
EIN: 26-3174662

March 17, 2022

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2205 Rayburn HOB, Washington DC 20515

Delivered Electronically

RE: Endorsement of Riverside County Sheriff's Office Rapid DNA Project

Dear Congressman Calvert:

Million Kids is a public benefit 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization who has a long history of dealing with child and adult sex crimes. In our experience having access to fast and effective DNA testing and results is crucial to solving sex crimes and providing an expedient path to removing the sex offender from harming other victims. This funding is especially important in light of the significant increase in sex crimes as a result of young people online without supervision and pedophiles easy access to our kids that entice them to meet up in person after meeting online. Most important, many pedophiles have hundreds of victims and identifying them quickly and accurately is imperative to keeping our kids safe from predators.

Currently it takes far too long to get the results needed. That often results in focusing and detaining an innocent individual being accused of a crime while taking the focus off being able to identify the real offender. Sometimes the results are catastrophic as the real offender is left in society to continue to harm innocent women and children.

Million Kids fully supports Riverside County Sheriff's request for funding for Rapid DNA. We believe Rapid DNA will play a critical role in quickly solving more sexual assault crimes. We respectfully request that you fully consider Riverside County Sheriff's Office for funding.

Sincerely,

Opal Singleton  
President and CEO Million Kids



# CRIME SURVIVORS Resource Center

AWARENESS | PREVENTION | ADVOCACY | HEALING

March 16, 2022

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2205 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Delivered Electronically to The Honorable Ken Calvert

RE: Endorsement of Riverside County Sheriff's Office Rapid DNA Project

Dear Honorable Ken Calvert:

The Crime Survivors Resource Center fully supports Riverside County Sheriff's request for funding for Rapid DNA. We are all painfully aware of sexual assault and the toll it takes on our society. As advocates for sexual assault awareness and prevention, we believe Rapid DNA will play a critical role in quickly solving more sexual assault crimes. We respectfully request that you fully consider Riverside County Sheriff's Office for funding.

We have all heard the stories about backlogs at the crime lab. There is a perpetually growing log of samples that need to be analyzed for sexual assault, homicide, violent crimes etc. In large part, this is due to limited resources and the intensive labor requirement of DNA analysis at the lab. Rapid DNA allows deputies and officers within sheriff's and police departments to analyze many samples themselves. This leads to a direct reduction of the number of cases that pile up, allowing forensic scientists to focus on the complex casework often related to sexual assault.

This will have a tremendous benefit in Riverside County. Many women are waiting to receive answers and results in hopes of bringing their assailants to justice. Not only will the crime lab have more resources available to tackle these cases more quickly, but deputies within the Sheriff's Department will be able to quickly generate investigative leads through Rapid DNA. We see a multifaceted benefit as a result of Rapid DNA in the Riverside Sheriff's Office.

In summary, Rapid DNA will help Riverside County in its fight against sexual assault. Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Patricia Wenskunas  
Founder & CEO  
Crime Survivors, Inc.  
Crime Survivors Resource Center

## **Crime Survivors, Inc.**

Crime Survivors Resource Center

P.O. Box 54552 • Irvine, CA 92619-4552

Office: (844) 853-HOPE • Cell: (949) 872-7895 • Fax: (775) 245-4798

Email: [info@crimesurvivors.org](mailto:info@crimesurvivors.org) • Website: [www.crimesurvivors.org](http://www.crimesurvivors.org)