



2010-6

**NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS EFFORTS TO
REDUCE THE DNA BACKLOG; INCREASE FORENSIC SCIENCE
ACCREDITATION; AND STRENGTHEN THE INTEGRITY AND
CONFIDENCE OF CODIS**

WHEREAS, the National Sheriffs' Association recognizes that the law enforcement community relies on DNA analysis in solving a wide range of criminal offenses thus resulting in increased demand for testing;

WHEREAS, there is a significant need to address and reduce DNA backlogs in crime laboratories across the United States;

WHEREAS, lack of funding and personnel heavily contribute to the current DNA backlogs, particularly in state and local public crime laboratories;

WHEREAS, substantial and continual funding for state and local public crime laboratories will enable labs to expand their current capacities, leading to a reduction of backlogs and their abilities to meet the demand for future DNA testing;

WHEREAS, it is also critical to elevate forensic science and DNA within the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) to ensure full funding for forensic science and DNA backlog reduction programs and grants;

WHEREAS, the expansion of research and development funding for the National Institute of Justice will assist in the advancements of new technologies and provide for expanded research and validation of existing forensic disciplines;

WHEREAS, the accreditation of all crime laboratories should be mandatory to strengthen the credibility of forensic and DNA analyses;

WHEREAS, adequate funding should be provided to assist crime laboratories achieve this accreditation;

WHEREAS, the individual professional board certification of all forensic service providers should be funded to encourage certification compliance;

WHEREAS, it is also necessary to preserve the integrity and confidence established by the national DNA database system since its creation over ten years ago;

WHEREAS, to continue to maintain such integrity, access to the Combined DNA Indexing System (CODIS) should be limited specifically to accredited public crime laboratories only, as recommended by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD);

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the National Sheriffs' Association supports efforts to reduce the DNA backlog; increase the accreditation for forensic science labs and personnel; and strengthen the integrity and confidence of CODIS.

Adopted at a Meeting of the General Membership in Anaheim, CA on June 29, 2010.