



POLICE DEPARTMENT

July 13, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is to provide a formal disclosure by the NYPD Latent Print Section (LPS) to the New York City's District Attorney's Offices, the Family Court Division of the New York City Corporation Counsel's Office and the United States Attorney's Offices for the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York.

On April 1, 2015, Det. Joe Martinez, Tax #924141, of the NYPD Latent Print Section erroneously reported that a known individual was identified as the source of a latent print left at a crime scene in Brooklyn. This identification was then verified by two additional LPS examiners, Detective Edward Sanabria, Tax #902344, and Detective Gerald Rex, Tax #926398. Approximately one month after the fingerprint identification was made and reported, the NYPD confirmed that the known individual could not have been the source of the crime scene latent fingerprint. As a result, the NYPD notified the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office regarding the misidentification. This Latent Print Section examination result never led to the arrest or prosecution of any individual.

The NYPD Forensic Investigations Unit (FIU) initiated an investigation into the misidentification of the crime scene latent print. A review of the documentation of that investigation disclosed that Detectives Martinez, Sanabria and Rex were immediately removed from casework pending further findings of the investigation. All criminal identifications made before April 1, 2015 by Detectives Martinez, Sanabria and Rex since they started working in the Latent Print Section were reviewed by the Latent Print Section; there were no discrepancies found as a result of the re-examinations. Detective Martinez was transferred from LPS without being returned to casework. Detectives Sanabria and Rex received retraining by outside consultants, and returned to casework at the end of 2015. In addition, as a result of the investigation, several changes were instituted by LPS regarding how fingerprint comparisons were conducted, verified and documented, starting in 2015. It should be noted that LPS attained accreditation in 2019.

Detectives Sanabria and Rex remained as LPS Detectives until their retirements in 2017 and 2019, respectively. After the misidentification, any identifications made by Detective Sanabria and Detective Rex that resulted in a conviction by plea or after trial will be reviewed by the Latent Print Section.

Lt. Rosalyn Joseph
Commanding Officer
NYPD, Latent Print Section

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