



**State of New Jersey**  
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May 1, 2013

David J. Rosen  
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer  
Office of Legislative Services  
State House Annex, P.O. Box 068  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0068

Dear Mr. Rosen:

I write in response to questions raised by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee during my testimony on April 22, 2012.

**Question: The State's DNA database continues to expand through Legislative action. How has the collection of DNA been used and how has it been effective in solving crimes? Please provide the committee with an evaluation of how the collection of DNA from disorderly person offenders would affect the department, if such an addition is required.**

*Presently, the New Jersey State DNA CODIS (Combined DNA Index System) Database contains DNA profiles from over 253,000 convicted offenders, 250 arrestees, and 16,500 crime scenes. The DNA profiles contained in this database are searched weekly by Federal and State law enforcement officers and compared to DNA profiles from convicted offenders, arrestees, and crime scenes from across the country. To date, the New Jersey CODIS Database has generated over 7,200 hits, including over 1,200 hits last year, helping to solve crimes that would likely have gone unsolved without it.*

*Expanding the CODIS Database to include samples from disorderly persons offenders would require a significant resource investment. First, there is a threshold question: is the*



*Legislature contemplating collecting samples from only those convicted of disorderly persons offenses, or those charged as well, regardless of conviction? The Department assumes, for purposes of this answer, that the Legislature is contemplating collection from only those convicted – approximately 50,000 individuals last year – and not from those arrested without conviction – approximately 300,000 individuals last year.*

*Assuming 50,000 additional samples to be processed, the Office of Forensic Sciences within the New Jersey State Police would need to hire 13 scientists and 9 evidence handlers. The cost for salaries and supplies would be approximately \$3.1 million per year, or an increase of 12.5%. The CODIS Compliance Unit of the Division of Criminal Justice would also require additional staff, space, and supplies were the Legislature to require collection from those individuals convicted of disorderly persons offenses.*

**Question: Superstorm Sandy affected New Jersey, but most noticeably the New Jersey shoreline. As the warmer weather approaches and residents and visitors begin to use the waterways for leisure activities, please provide an update on the status of the clearing and proper marking of the waterways to ensure the public's safety.**

*Identification and removal of wet debris from New Jersey waterways has been a collaborative effort between the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the New Jersey Department of Transportation, the New Jersey State Police, and debris removal companies. The Department of Transportation has been tasked with identifying submerged debris through underwater scanning. As of March 14, 2013, in excess of 827 targets of unknown size and configuration have been identified.*

*Once identified, the debris is removed by the debris removal companies, with oversight from the Department of Environmental Protection and the State Police. It is anticipated that removal will continue through the 2013 recreational boating season.*

*With so much submerged debris present, existing aids to navigation, charts, and electronic navigational instrumentation may not be accurate. And while the State is working to quickly remove debris and the Army Corps of Engineers to ensure channels are properly marked and navigable, mariners must employ heightened caution when traveling New Jersey waterways. With the approach of the 2013 recreational boating season, a press release was issued advising New Jersey mariners to be vigilant (that release can be found at [http://www.state.nj.us/dep/newsrel/2013/13\\_0034.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/newsrel/2013/13_0034.htm)). As well, the U.S. Coast Guard will continue "awareness broadcasts" to inform mariners of waterway debris concerns.*

**Question: Please provide information on how the federal sequester will affect the**

**federal funding and State funding for programs supported statewide by the New Jersey Office of Victim and Witness Advocacy.**

*The State Office of Victim Witness Advocacy (SOVWA) has provided supplemental funding for project-based sexual assault intervention services, as well as other types of victim services through competitive VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) grants. Senator Beck's inquiry sought information concerning the impact of the anticipated loss of federal funding due to the sequester. While specific information has yet to be provided, SOVWA was advised generally to anticipate at least a 5% reduction in VAWA funding due to the sequester. However, should the VAWA grant funding for Federal FY 2013 be reduced, agencies receiving the above-referenced competitive grants will not be affected until July 1, 2014, if at all.*

*In administering competitive VAWA funding for victim services, the Division of Criminal Justice operates on a three-year cycle. Currently, the cycle is in its third and final year, which will terminate on June 30, 2013 (so that funding has been fully disbursed and would not be affected by the sequester). The next three-year cycle will begin July 1, 2013; SOVWA staff will be reviewing and scoring all grant applications in the coming months. It should be understood, however, that the first year of the next three-year cycle (July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014) will utilize Federal FY 2012 funding, which the Division has already received and is not subject to reduction due to the sequester.*

*Any impact of the sequester on the competitive VAWA grant funding for victim services will not be felt by the grantees, if at all, until the second year of the three-year cycle, which will begin July 1, 2014. Based on the general 5% reduction communicated to date, the potential impact on any agency receiving a grant would be a loss of \$2,250 per year (under the competitive VAWA grant program, 32 agencies were awarded grants of approximately \$45,000 per year for each year of the three-year cycle, for a total amount of \$1,438,432 per year).*

**Question: As the number of Division of State Police troopers has noticeably decreased over the past few years due to attrition, please provide an overview of the overtime pay over the last year or two as a direct correlation of the limited trooper staffing.**

*Staffing reductions due to retirements have continued to increase from FY 2012 through FY 2013. Specifically, FY 2012 saw the retirement of 201 troopers, while FY 2013 has seen the retirement of 221 troopers to date. Notwithstanding these retirements, overtime has not increased significantly in FY 2013. Between July 2011 and March 2012, the New Jersey State Police incurred a total of 139,030 overtime hours. Between July 2012 and March 2013, the State Police accrued 149,784.75 overtime hours, which includes 35,380.25 overtime hours in November 2012 in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy. But for Superstorm Sandy, State Police overtime hours in FY 2013 (through March 2013) would have been comparable to or even fewer than the same period in FY 2012.*

Please contact my office with any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff S. Chiesa". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a prominent "S".

Jeffrey S. Chiesa  
Attorney General