



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

23RD CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT

ROBERT R. MORRIS III

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

366 Loshier Street Suite 210

Hernando, MS 38632

662-469-8014

March 10, 2023

The Honorable Trent Kelly
2243 Rayburn House Offc. Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support of the DeSoto county Sheriff's Funding Request

Dear Congressman Kelly:

I write to you today to offer my endorsement of the DeSoto County Sheriff's Department request for Community Project Funding for Rapid DNA testing equipment.

My office recently attended an exhibition of the Rapid DNA field testing equipment and I must say it was impressive. Rapid DNA has a proven impact in improving community safety and demonstrates vast potential to assist in the successful investigation of serious crimes.

Rapid DNA allows law enforcement agencies to focus and intensify their investigation into the correct suspects or witnesses; thus allowing for a more efficient disposition of critical man-hours and resources. This type of equipment will be of benefit not just to the Sheriff's Department, but to all law enforcement in this county. In turn that will lead to successful prosecution and incarceration of violent criminals in this county.

In short, I believe that Sheriff Rasco's request for funding is timely, and that such funding would be of tremendous benefit to this community. Anything that allows this outstanding department to further enhance its investigative ability receives my complete and total support, and I hope that it will receive yours as well.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to call upon me should you need anything further from this office in support of the request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Morris', written over a white background.

Bob Morris
District Attorney
DeSoto County

SERVING THE COUNTY OF DESOTO



**MARSHALL COUNTY, MS. SHERIFF'S OFFICE
819 WEST STREET
HOLLY SPRINGS, MS. 38635
OFFICE PHONE: (662) 252-1311**

March 7, 2023

The Honorable Trent Kelly
US House of Representatives
2243 Rayburn H. O. B.
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for DeSoto County Sheriff's Funding Request

Dear Congressman Kelly;

We would like to express Sheriff Kenny Dickerson's as well as the entire Marshall County, MS. Sheriff's Department's full support of DeSoto County's Funding Request for Rapid DNA Comparative Analysis Equipment. Rapid DNA Analysis has an impressive track record thus far in improving community safety by offering a tremendous potential to assist in improving law enforcement practices and outcomes. We offer our full endorsement and respectfully request that you please support DeSoto County's funding request.

We are constantly looking for ways to improve efficiency in our department relating to both our responsibility to our taxpayers as well as improving the allocation of limited departmental resources. In addition to improving law enforcement outcomes, we see a great potential benefit of increased efficiency of effort within the department. We are very aware as I'm sure you are that the Mississippi State Crime Lab faces difficult decisions regarding the allocation of resources in response to investigation requests. Our State Crime Lab is asked to process DNA evidence from an ever increasing number of violent crimes including sexual assaults, homicides, rape kits and a number of other major assault cases involving both adults and children. As a result, the vast majority of DNA requests involving property crimes are often delayed because the more violent crime investigative requests take precedence. The availability of Rapid Comparative DNA Analysis equipment within our district would be a tremendous benefit and greatly increase our department's overall efficiency as well as improve our relationship with the community at large. With Rapid DNA Analysis law enforcement would be able to rely on objective empirical forensic science in generating and investigating leads, identifying criminal suspects and eliminating innocent persons.

Having the availability and use of Rapid Comparative DNA Analysis equipment would be an invaluable tool to our department as well as a great benefit to our community as a whole. Please let us know if there is anything else that we can do in regard to supporting this request for Rapid DNA Comparative Analysis equipment funding.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Dickerson, Sheriff
Marshall County, MS. Sheriff's Department



MARSHALL COUNTY, MS. SHERIFF'S OFFICE
819 WEST STREET
HOLLY SPRINGS, MS. 38635
OFFICE PHONE: (662) 252-1311

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kenny Dickerson".

Kenneth Dickerson, Sheriff
Marshall County, MS. Sheriff's Department



Southaven Police Department

MACON MOORE • *Chief of Police* | BRENT VICKERS • *Deputy Chief of Police*



March 8, 2023

The Honorable Trent Kelly
U.S. House of Representatives
2243 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for Desoto County Sheriff's Office Funding Request

Dear Congressman Kelly,

The Southaven Police Department is excited to hear about Sheriff Bill Rasco's request for funding for Rapid DNA equipment. Rapid DNA has an impressive track record thus far in improving community safety while demonstrating a tremendous potential to enhance future law enforcement practices and outcomes. We offer our endorsement and respectfully request that you support the Desoto County Sheriff's funding request.

We are constantly looking to improve efficiency in our respective departments as a responsibility to our taxpayers and to allocate limited resources better. Aside from improving law enforcement outcomes, we see a benefit through future increased efficiency. The Mississippi Forensic Laboratory constantly faces difficult decisions when allocating resources in response to investigations throughout the entire state. They have homicide, assault, and sexual assault cases involving adults and children, which they must try to prioritize regarding requests from law enforcement for DNA analysis. As a result, most property crime cases that may be solved through a DNA comparative analysis are never conducted due to the volume of requests and the seriousness of the crimes being investigated.

Rapid DNA helps ease the burden placed on the forensic laboratory by allowing law enforcement officers to pursue scientific investigative leads, thus allowing the crime lab to focus on complex, high-priority cases. Equally important, Rapid DNA can also support improvements in community relationships by removing opportunities for racial or other biases (such as eyewitness identification) to help better solve cases through empirical forensic science. With Rapid DNA, law enforcement will be able to rely on forensic science to generate leads and identify criminal suspects while at the same time eliminating the innocent. Criminal investigations, public safety, and our entire community will benefit from using Rapid DNA.

Rapid DNA will be invaluable, and our community will benefit from its inclusion in law enforcement practices. Please let us know if we can do anything else to support this request.

Sincerely,

Macon Moore
Chief of Police