AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIME LABORATORY DIRECTORS
LABORATORY ACCREDITATION BOARD

April 19, 2005

Paul B. Ferrara, Ph.D., Director
Virginia Division of Forensic Science
P.O. Box 999
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Dr. Ferrara:

On April 9, 2005, the Board of Directors of ASCLD/LAB met and considered the applications for accreditation from the four (4) laboratories of the Virginia Division of Forensic Science. Based on the documentation provided and in accordance with the recommendation of Staff Inspector Larry Lorsbach, the Board is satisfied that each of the Virginia Division of Forensic Science laboratories meets or exceeds the standards for accreditation as set forth by ASCLD/LAB in the 2003 version of the accreditation manual. It is my pleasure to advise you that each of the laboratories has been accredited as follows.

The Central Laboratory in Richmond was accredited in the disciplines of controlled substances, toxicology, trace evidence, biology, firearms/toolmarks, questioned documents, latent prints, and digital evidence.

The Western Laboratory in Roanoke was accredited in the disciplines of controlled substances, trace evidence, toxicology, biology, firearms/toolmarks, questioned documents, and latent prints.

The Eastern Laboratory in Norfolk was accredited in the disciplines of controlled substances, toxicology, trace evidence, biology, firearms/toolmarks, questioned documents, and latent prints.

The Northern Laboratory in Fairfax was accredited in the disciplines of controlled substances, toxicology, biology, firearms/toolmarks, and latent prints.

These accreditations are for a period of five (5) years, effective at the expiration of the previous accreditations. Updated accreditation certificates for each of the laboratories will be forwarded to you under separate cover in the near future.

Accreditation is granted only after a thorough evaluation of a laboratory's management practices, personnel qualifications, technical procedures, quality assurance program and facilities. We recognize that accreditation is the result of much work and preparation by the management and personnel in each of your laboratories. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend sincere congratulations to you and to your entire staff for this significant accomplishment.

Accredited laboratories are expected to maintain the high standards which were required of them to achieve accreditation. The laboratories of the Virginia Division of Forensic Science laboratories will be expected to participate in external proficiency testing and to agree for test results to be reviewed by the appropriate Proficiency Review Committees (PRCs) as outlined in the accreditation manual. In addition, you will be expected to conduct annual audits of each of the laboratories and submit the Annual Accreditation Review Reports (appendix 6 in the manual) to the Executive Director by April 1 of each

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year. Your laboratories will be invoiced near the end of each year for an annual accreditation fee which is based on the budget approved by the Delegate Assembly.

As the director of an accredited laboratory system, you are a voting member of the Delegate Assembly. The directors of each of the accredited laboratories are also voting members of the Delegate Assembly. Each of you are invited and encouraged to participate in the accreditation process and to exercise your vote on issues which are presented to the Delegate either by mail ballot or at the annual meeting.

On behalf of the Board, I extend my sincere congratulations to you and to all of the personnel of your laboratories. If you have any questions or if we might assist you in any way please feel free to get in touch with us.

My best wishes to you and your staff.

Sincerely,

Donald A. Wyckoff
Chair, ASCLD/LAB

cc: Steven C. Sigel, Deputy Director
Peter M. Marone, Central Laboratory
Kevin Patrick, Western Laboratory
Amy Wong, Northern Laboratory
Susan Scholl, Eastern Laboratory
Larry Lorsbach, Staff Inspector
Ralph Keaton, Executive Director