

NYSP Superintendent Response to Inspector General's Report

NEW YORK STATE POLICE

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Superintendent

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December 17, 2009 - Albany, NY) - New York State Police Superintendent Harry J. Corbitt issues the following response to the New York State Inspector General's Investigation Report of the Trace Evidence Section of the New York State Police Forensic Investigation Center.

“From the time the State Police first learned that some of the trace evidence procedures were not in conformity with State Police policy, we recognized the need to have this thoroughly, independently and transparently investigated, to maintain the integrity and propriety of the hard working employees at the State Police Forensic Investigation Center. For this reason, the State Police initiated contact with the Inspector General to ensure such an investigation took place.

“Independent of the Inspector General’s investigation, the State Police conducted a thorough review with all the District Attorneys throughout the state who had affected cases. We are satisfied that there were no wrongful convictions, nor any miscarriages of justice which resulted from these improper procedures.

“As the Inspector General’s report recognized, trace evidence represents a small portion of the work of the entire New York State Police Crime Laboratory system. Nevertheless, it is important to ensure that the highest standards across the system are maintained, and the State Police is in the process of examining all of the Inspector General’s recommendations. Appropriate remedial measures will be taken with respect to any conduct falling below the highest standards.

“I appreciate the time and effort spent on this investigation by the Inspector General and his staff.”