

EXECUTIVE ORDER

REQUIRING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO PROCESS THE BACKLOG OF ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT UNTESTED SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE KITS

WHEREAS, one in four women and one in 20 men in New Mexico have experienced sexual assault in their lifetime, and 65 percent of sexual assault victims are minors; and

WHEREAS, the Albuquerque Police Department (APD) has the largest historical backlog of untested sexual assault evidence kits in the State of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, processing sexual assault evidence kits is crucial to identifying offenders and solving crimes as well as honoring the commitment made to victims; and

WHEREAS, APD has received federal grant funding and may benefit from legislation requiring the State's crime lab to process kits in the City's possession; and

WHEREAS, the City Council enacted two resolutions related to the issue: R-2017-006 (establishing additional City policy relating to the processing of untested sexual assault evidence kits in the possession of APD) and R-2017-022 (establishing time frames for processing sexual assault evidence kits); and

WHEREAS, despite these efforts, no comprehensive plan to address all untested kits in the City exists at the current time.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Timothy M. Keller, Mayor of the City of Albuquerque, by virtue of the Charter of the City of Albuquerque, do hereby ORDER:

- 1. That APD to collaborate with the Albuquerque Sexual Assault Evidence Response Team (ASERT) to develop a comprehensive plan to address the backlog of untested sexual assault evidence kits in APD's possession that originated before January 1, 2017.
- 2. That the plan include funding requirements, vendors required, and the uses of federal grant funds.
- 3. That the plan include a process for ensuring that a new "backlog" of untested kits does not develop.
- 4. That the plan be submitted to me no later than March 15, 2018.

This Executive Order does not create any legal rights on the part of any person or entity and shall not be a basis for a challenge to rules or regulations or any other action or inaction by the City.

THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER supersedes any other previous orders, proclamations, or directives to the extent they are in conflict. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

JANUARY 17, 2018