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NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Attorney General Kaul Celebrates Groundbreaking of New Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory in Milwaukee

MADISON, Wis. – Attorney General Josh Kaul today celebrated the groundbreaking of the new Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory located in the Milwaukee area. This new crime lab replaces an outdated, small laboratory that has not met the needs of current scientific advancements in terms of space and workflows.

“Efforts to build a new crime lab in the Milwaukee area began well before I was first sworn in as Attorney General, and I’m thrilled that we’re now able to put shovels in the ground to get this done,” said **Attorney General Josh Kaul**. “My top priority is public safety, and ensuring the state crime labs have the facilities they need to keep up with scientific and technological advancements will help with the crucial work of keeping our communities safe.”

History of the Milwaukee Crime Laboratory Facility

The current Milwaukee Crime Laboratory facility was retrofitted from a grocery store to a scientific laboratory in 1983 and an addition was built in 1992. At the time, the number of personnel was small, only 20 parking stalls were required for the scientists that worked there. As time went on, and the forensic science progressed, the need for more forensic science disciplines increased as did the need for more personnel.

Currently, the number of staff is close to 70 scientists, technicians and managers and the space has constrained and dictated the scientific capacity of the laboratory. It was identified approximately thirteen years ago that due to capacity constraints and

numerous structural and other concerns associated with that facility, that a new space needed to be considered.

Efforts to build or locate a new facility for the Milwaukee area Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory have been attempted numerous times over the past thirteen years and is now finally moving forward.

About DOJ's Division of Forensic Science

The Wisconsin Department of Justice Division of Forensic Science (DFS) was established as an independent division in 2019, though the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory was originally established in 1947. DFS employs over 190 people including forensic scientists, technicians, evidence specialists, and crime scene response professionals. These dedicated professionals provide impartial forensic analysis in the following areas of science: toxicology, drug identification, biology/DNA analysis, DNA database, trace evidence analysis, firearms examination, toolmark analysis, latent print examination, footwear analysis, ten print comparison, and forensic imaging and video analysis.

DFS crime laboratories—located in Madison, Milwaukee, and Wausau—are the only full-service forensic science laboratory system in Wisconsin. DFS is not a diagnostic laboratory system; the circumstances of each case submitted to DFS are unique. The needs of the submitting agency, the type of crime and impact on public safety as well as court/trial demands are considered for each case.

DFS provides unbiased scientific testing and analysis of evidence for every community in Wisconsin and staffs on-call Crime Scene Response Units, located at each laboratory, to assist law enforcement at major crime scenes by processing and photographing the crime scene, providing scene documentation and trajectory analysis and maintaining evidence integrity.