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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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September 26, 2018

Matthew M. Murray
Melowski & Associates, LLC
524 South Pier Drive
Sheboygan, WI 53081

Dear Mr. Murray:

This is in response to your correspondence, dated September 18, 2018, in which you wrote, "My understanding is that in June of this year, Attorney General Brad Schimel hired Florida International University's National Forensic Science Technology Center to review operations at the Wisconsin crime labs and that the Center created a 24-page report. I am requesting a copy of that report as well as a copy of the two-page news release from Attorney General Brad Schimel that was released with the report." The Department of Justice (DOJ) construes your correspondence as a public records request pursuant to the Wisconsin Public Records Law, Wis. Stat. §§ 19.31 to 19.39.

We identified records responsive to your request, which we are providing to you. The law permits DOJ to impose fees for certain "actual, necessary and direct" costs associated with responding to public records requests. Wis. Stat. § 19.35(3). Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 19.35(3)(f), DOJ may require prepayment for the costs of locating (if applicable), copying and mailing the requested records if the total amount exceeds $5.00. Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 19.35(3)(e), in this instance, DOJ is waiving its fees associated with responding to your request. Enclosed, please find the records responsive to your request. Please note, the records you requested are also available online at https://www.doj.state.wi.us/news-releases/doj-budget-request-calls-crime-lab-reforms-and-system-wide-investment-prosecutors.

Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 19.35(4)(b), if a determination denies a request, in whole or in part, it is subject to review by mandamus under Wis. Stat. § 19.37(1) or upon application to a district attorney or the Attorney General.

Sincerely,

Paul M. Ferguson
Assistant Attorney General
Office of Open Government

PMF:cks

Enclosure