

**TAMPA POLICE DEPARTMENT
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION
FORENSIC UNIT
AUDIT 23-09
MARCH 29, 2023**



City of Tampa
Jane Castor, Mayor

Internal Audit Department

315 E. Kennedy Boulevard
Tampa, Florida 33602
Office (813) 274-7159

March 29, 2023

Honorable Jane Castor
Mayor, City of Tampa
1 City Hall Plaza
Tampa, Florida

RE: Tampa Police Department – Forensic Unit, Audit 23-09

Dear Mayor Castor:

Attached is the Internal Audit Department's report on Tampa Police Department – Forensic Unit.

We thank the management and staff of the Forensic Investigation Unit for their cooperation and assistance during this audit.

Sincerely,

/s/ Christine Glover

Christine Glover
Internal Audit Director

cc: John Bennett, Chief of Staff
Lee Bercaw, Chief of Police
Dennis Rogero, Chief Financial Officer
Calvin Johnson, Deputy Chief of Police
Michael Stout, Police Major
Patrick Crate, Police Captain
Susan Delage, Forensic Unit Supervisor
Carl Brody, Assistant City Attorney

**TAMPA POLICE DEPARTMENT
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION
FORENSIC UNIT
AUDIT 23-09
MARCH 29, 2023**

/s/ Abram Gablla

Senior Auditor

/s/ Christine Glover

Audit Director

**TAMPA POLICE DEPARTMENT
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION
FORENSIC UNIT
AUDIT 23-09**

BACKGROUND

The Forensic Investigation Unit (FIU) is a critical component of the investigation and prosecution of criminal activities. During crime scene investigations, the FIU examines the scene and collects physical evidence such as fibers, hair, bloodstains, and fingerprints. The fingerprints are then analyzed in the laboratory to determine their significance and establish links between suspects, victims, and the crime scene. Other collected physical evidence is taken to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for processing or sent to the Evidence Control Section.

The FIU conducts complex forensic work involving all aspects of friction skin identification, which is a vital aspect of forensic investigations. Additionally, the FIU provides fingerprint services to the public and other law enforcement agencies for background checks. The FIU also maintains a photo laboratory that develops or arranges for the development of all photos and provides prints for department personnel and related law enforcement agencies.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVE

This audit was conducted in accordance with the Internal Audit Department's FY 2023 Audit Agenda. The objective of this audit was to ensure that the system of internal controls related to FIU process is adequate.

STATEMENT OF SCOPE

The audit period covered FIU activity that occurred from July 1, 2022, to February 28, 2023. Tests were performed to determine whether the FIU personnel were fulfilling their stated duties and responsibilities in an effective and efficient manner. Original records as well as copies were used as evidence and verified through observation and physical examination.

STATEMENT OF METHODOLOGY

The objective for this audit were achieved by performing the following steps:

- Evaluated internal controls related to FIU, including a review of relevant policies, ordinances, agreements, and statutes.
- Researched performance metrics relevant to forensics and provided to management for consideration.

STATEMENT OF AUDITING STANDARDS

We conducted this performance audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objective. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objective.

AUDIT CONCLUSION

Based upon the test work performed we conclude that the system of internal controls related to FIU process is adequate.