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Worst Crime Lab in the Country Or is Houston Typical?

By ADAM LIPTAK

When Josiah Sutton went on trial for rape in 1999, prosecutors in Houston had little to build a case. Sutton was the only eyewitness, and her recollection was faulty. But they did have the rapist's DNA, and the Houston police crime laboratory told the jury that it was a solid match.

That was enough to persuade the jurors to convict Mr. Sutton and send him to prison for 25 years.

But new testing has conclusively demonstrated that the DNA was not Mr. Sutton's, the Houston Police announced yesterday.

What is HFSC

- **2012** - - formed a Local Government Corporation
 - A corporation “to aid and act on behalf of one or more local governments to accomplish any governmental purpose of those local governments.” Tex. Transportation Code §431.101(a).

What is HFSC

- Corporate structure
 - 9 member board of directors
 - Corporate officers
 - Forensic functions from HPD
 - Justice Agency
 - 501(c)(3)
- ***April 2014*** – Took management responsibility

What is HFSC

Disciplines

- Crime Scene
- Seized Drugs
- Toxicology
- Digital and Multimedia
- Latents
- Biology
- Firearms

Stats

- ~30,000 requests last calendar year
- ~210 staff
- ~100,000 sqft of facilities
- ~70% of staff is <35yo
- ~80% of staff is female