



February 26, 2016

Deputy District Attorney John Sliney
Tulare County District Attorney's Office

This memo is regarding a letter sent to TRMC-Mineral King Laboratory on November 10, 2015 to clarify its purpose and meaning.

On June 16, 2015, Visalia Police Department Officer [REDACTED] was involved in a critical incident. As part of my administrative review of this incident, I requested for TRMC- Mineral King Laboratory obtain a blood sample (2 vials) from Officer [REDACTED]. This sample was kept in my custody and immediately booked into Visalia Police Department property and evidence.

In October 2015, I located in our department records a TRMC-Mineral King Laboratory toxicology report for Officer [REDACTED] (Accession # 1505635). This report was labeled for the Visalia Police Department with my name on it. After speaking with Tulare County Sheriff's detectives, and confirming that the 2 vials that I had booked into our Property and Evidence were still in our possession, it was determined this toxicology report belonged to them.

On November 6, 2015, I spoke with TRMC Mineral King Laboratory officials and explained the situation. TRMC Mineral King Laboratory officials requested that I send them a department letter indicating my department's request to release ownership of this blood sample and resulting toxicology report to the Tulare County Sheriff's Office. The letter was faxed to TRMC- Mineral King Laboratory on November 10, 2015. To justify the transfer of ownership, I wrote in this letter that the "blood sample was mislabeled at the time of draw." This statement was an assumption of mine, believing that the vial was improperly labeled indicating it was for the Visalia Police Department when it should have indicated the Tulare County Sheriff's Office.

Respectfully,

Damon Maurice, Sergeant
Visalia Police Department

