



1600 Pacific Highway, Room 352

San Diego, CA 92101-2942

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Chairwoman: Kristine Custodio Suero

Vice Chair

Vernita Gutierrez
Kelly Jenkins-Pultz
Idara Ogunsaju

District 1, Vacant

Vacant

Monica Martinez

District 2, Anderson

Mary Davis
Lauren Welty

District 3, Lawson-Remer

Kimberly Keen
Kristine Custodio Suero

District 4, Montgomery

Steppe

Idara Ogunsaju
Vacant

District 5, Desmond

Rohida Khan
Amy Nantkes

Members At Large

Kelly Jenkins-Pultz
Vernita Gutierrez
Vacant

Staff Assistant

Chiara Leroy

Senior Deputy County

Counsel

Heather Murray

MINUTES

July 11, 2025

Regular Meeting

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Vice Chair Idara Ogunsaju: Meeting was called to order at 12:09 PM.

Agenda item #1 – Commissioner Roll Call:

Members Present In-person:

Mary Davis	Kimberly Keen
Idara Ogunsaju	Monica Martinez
Kelly Jenkins-Pultz	Amy Nantkes

Members Absent:

Kristine Custodio Suero	Lauren Welty
Vernita Gutierrez	Rohida Khan

Agenda item #2 – Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner (Comm.) Davis motions to approve minutes. Seconded by Vice-Chair (VC) Jenkins-Pultz. Comm. Martinez abstained, all others in favor of motion. Motion passed.

Agenda item #3 – Public Comments:

No public comments.

Agenda item #4 – Committee Reports:

- a. Civic Engagement: VC Jenkins-Pultz provided update on the County of San Diego Office of Child Support's invitation to attend their Super Saturday event, August 9th in the morning, Kearny Mesa area. VC Jenkins-Pultz will table event, invites other commissioners to join her in this outreach. Considering doing a Women's Equality Day Proclamation, if anyone has any past experience doing proclamations, please reach out to her. Looking at applications that are pending to the Commission

and reviewing how to act on them.

Q: Comm. Nantkes – If you would like to volunteer to Super Saturday event, but are not apart of the commission what are next steps?

A: VC Jenkins-Pultz can provide email with details, or asks that you show up to event/table.

Welcomes you to bring any other resources that you'd like to share to this event.

- b. Governance: No report out.
- c. Policy: VC Ogunsaju shared that the committee met on drafting statements in general and specifically on Immigration and where help is warranted. Continued support to organizations and groups that support these efforts doesn't require the Commission to make a statement. If in future as things arise, if we want to gather more information we can bring to the Commission and solicit from the group to share other resources. Next meeting in August.
- d. Executive: VC Ogunsaju stated this meeting generally meets prior to this main meeting, with next meeting to be scheduled between now and August meeting with report out occurring then.

Old Business:

Agenda item #5 – Initiative Updates and Liaison Reports:

- a. CEDAW Advisor: Comm. Nantkes for Parisa Ijadi-Maghsoodi, appreciates the work with Office of Equity and Racial Justice (OERJ) that are continuing to answer questions regarding data for each program and service. Shared data tracker spreadsheet (as example), asks for public input.
- b. CEDAW Rising: Comm. Nantkes shared what CEDAW Rising is, anyone can be apart of the committee, public including the public. Learn more at CEDAWRising.org. Requests to complete survey if you attended last meeting. No date for next meeting. Currently in process of developing an online system where judications can do information sharing and input their own CEDAW efforts that are underway. More substantive information sharing. 70 people attended the first convening from all over U.S.

Agenda item #6 – Strategic Planning – Process Discussion: Information gathering for recommendations/position statements.

VC Ogunsaju reiterated what she shared for the Policy committee, #4c. Also stated that they identified three things in wanting to follow-up on issues that are impacting women in general and in support of the overall well-being of women and girls in the county.

- 1. Identify and share information resources within the community
- 2. Support and promote local agencies that are already doing the work.
- 3. Attending [Board of] Supervisor meetings to remain informed on ongoing issues and perspectives on the topics.

New Business

Agenda item # 7 – Guest speaker: Lori Saldana

Provided a brief introduction on herself. Presented a slideshow (attached).

Q: VC Ogunsaju – Do we have information on what practices they put in places that made it such that they were able to address the backlog?

A: They allocated additional funding, a policy choice... had pressure from nonprofits and people from the community. San Diego has not generated that level, unfortunately.

Q: VC Ogunsaju – What is current backlog [in San Diego]?

A: At Public Safety Committee in May, they claim they have cleared all their kits and have no backlog. They will not get certain funding if they don't comply. 540 matches have been made on CODIS, but follow-up and charges need to come from County DA and not City Attorney office.

Q: Comm. Martinez: Any deadlines required?

A: Not aware of any audit requirements, only compliance. That is a step we are looking at, how do we track compliance? It takes people asking questions and requesting audits and showing us numbers because otherwise we wouldn't have known about matches or backlog.

Q: Comm. Martinez: When you say it is not a funding issue, but it's a choice... is there anything that was shared as to why that was not a choice?

A: For years advocates have pushed back for all these reasons, we understand people are hesitant to report, but it doesn't serve public safety or criminal justice if we don't identify and hold them accountable.

Q: Comm. Nantkes: What is the conversation between the County and City as far as when rape kits are procured?

A; They have their own distinct crime labs, once completed they have to be referred for prosecution. Someone from those offices would be great to come in and answer or to have a whole presentation on what next steps are after rape kits are completed.

Q: Comm. Nantkes: You mentioned private crime lab?

A: No, there is a private lab that developed DNA testing method that is much more detailed. Local company received a \$1,000,000 grant from DA office.

Q: Comm. Nantkes: 1. Is funding going to continue to be a priority for the County? 2. The DA, will those prosecutions go forward? 3. What are the results that are being founded? 4. How are we protecting the immigrant population?

A: That is a great summary, I gave a chronology of how we got here. How do we do a better job at protecting public safety? Vulnerable residents who maybe at greater risk because of the current immigration situation.

VC Ogunsaju thanked Ms. Saldana for her presentation, and plans to reach out again to touch base again, perhaps in October. Comm. Martinez suggests perhaps following up with County and/or City like Ms. Saldana suggested for them to present. VC Ogunsaju says: how can we respond to the issues that have been addressed? It is the what and the why and what action we can take.

Agenda item #8 – Commissioner Round Table and Upcoming Events

VC Ogunsaju shared that the Civic Engagement Committee is meeting after this meeting to discuss upcoming events and guest speakers to present. She also attended D4 Grants Workshop, learned processes How well is it serving the people of that district? That is how they will base funding. Our Commission can apply, a protentional source of funding. Website update: Will be moving from current location to FG3 on the County website.

Agenda item #10 – ADJOURNED: This meeting is closed at 12:57 PM.

Information Items:

- **2025 Meetings:** August 1st, September 5th, October 3rd, November 7th, December 5th

NOTE: The Commission on the Status of Women and Girls jurisdiction is established by action of the Board of Supervisors as follows: The Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego declares that it is the policy of the County to take action to identify needs and problems of women in the County that are affected by public policy decisions; and furthermore, to eliminate the practice of discrimination and prejudice on the basis of sex within the County. In order to promote this policy and to provide an open forum for discussion and action, there is hereby established a San Diego County Commission on the Status of Women in the Chief Administrative Office. County Code of Administrative Ordinances, Section 85.

20 years & 1000s of
UNTESTED Sexual
Assault Evidence Kits
(SAEKS) in the
San Diego
Police Department
Crime Lab

Year	Number of Kits Impounded	Number of Kits Tested by Laboratory
2005	376	213
2006	348	196
2007	334	160
2008	368	186
2009	353	163
2010	365	189
2011	334	152
2012	345	138
2013	383	208
2014	423	194

2014: First
State Audit of
backlogged
Sexual Assault
Evidence kits
in California:
50% untested



Sexual Assault Evidence Kits

Although Testing All Kits Could Benefit Sexual Assault Investigations, the Extent of the Benefits Is Unknown

Report 2014-109

2014: First
State Audit of
backlogged
Sexual Assault
Evidence kits:
50% untested

- The audit looked at San Diego, Sacramento and Oakland – and found the agencies tested less than half of the kits they collected.
- After that audit, San Diego stood by its decision not to automatically test all kits, while the other two cities changed their practices.

2015: 2,800 Rape Kits identified as **Untested** in San Diego

2,800 Rape Kits Sit Untested in San Diego

By Nicole Gomez and R. Stickney • Published May 19, 2015

• Updated on [May 19, 2015](#) at 4:46 pm

San Diego has close to 3,000 untested rape kits in police storage, the largest backlog of five cities profiled in a study released Tuesday.

The Joyful Heart Foundation uses public records requests to [determine how many untested rape kits](#) are sitting in police custody around the U.S.

The organization released data for five cities Tuesday: Charlotte, North Carolina; Jacksonville, Florida; Kansas City, Missouri; Portland, Oregon and San Diego.

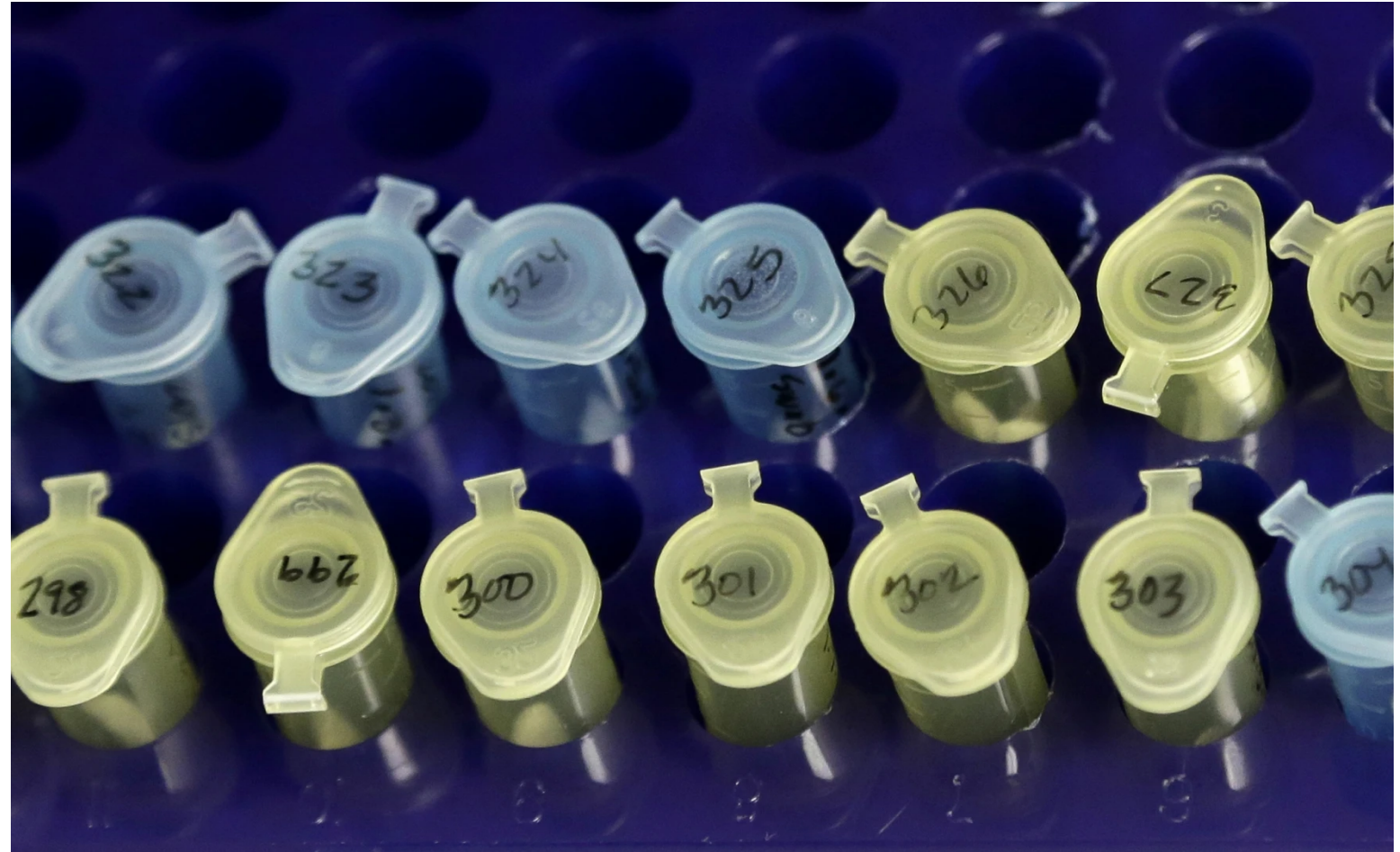
Each of the four cities listed along with San Diego has fewer than 2,000 rape kits that have not been tested.

2015:
2,800 Rape
Kits identified
as Untested in
San Diego

- "The 2800 cases represent **25 years** of rape kits that have been collected in sexual assault cases which were not forwarded to our crime laboratory for analysis." - Scott Wahl
- A recent audit suggested that California legislators should set a two-year deadline for the kits to be tested.
- **In San Diego, the evidence dates back to the early 1990s.**

2016:

“SDPD has said
it has about
2,400 rape kits
that have not
been sent to the
crime lab to get
analyzed.”-
KPBS



2016: in Alameda County:
“Of the first 319 kits tested using funds from a federal grant — kits that had previously been shelved — 124 yielded profiles that were uploaded to CODIS and 55 of those profiles resulted in a “hit,” meaning a match to a known offender.”



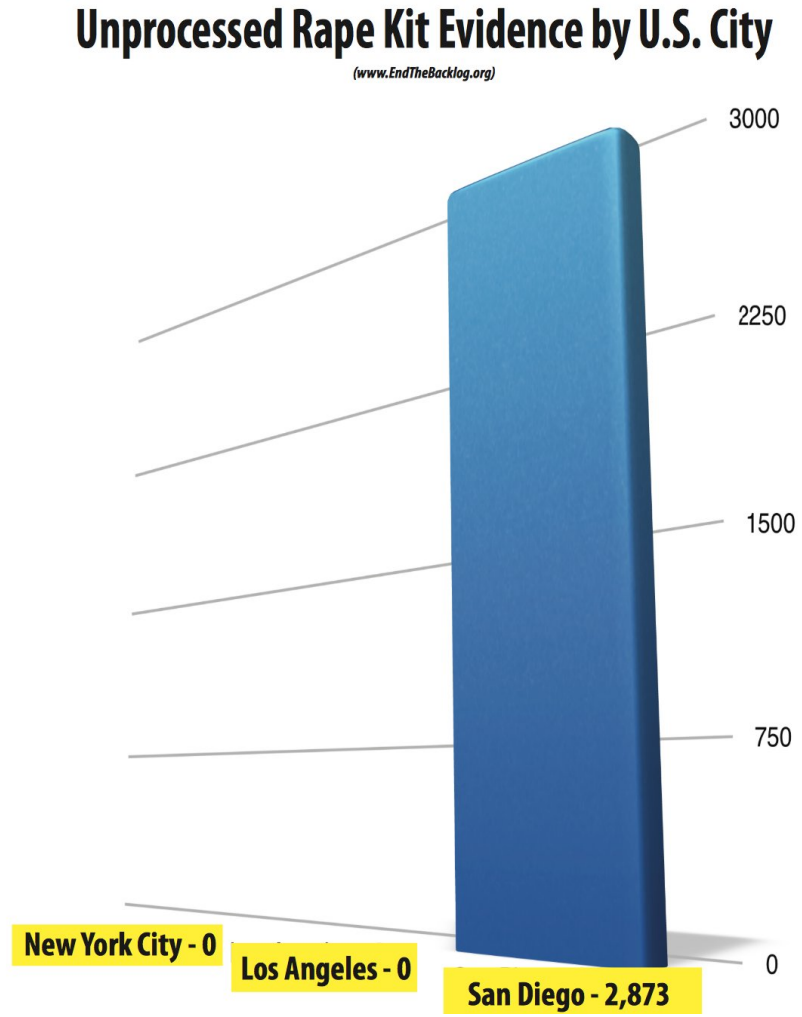
PUBLIC SAFETY

SDPD Doubles Down on Decision to Leave Some Rape Kits Untested

by [Kelly Davis](#) September 8, 2016



2016-17:
Los Angeles,
Detroit & New
York clear their
backlog of
SAKS.
**San Diego
does not.**

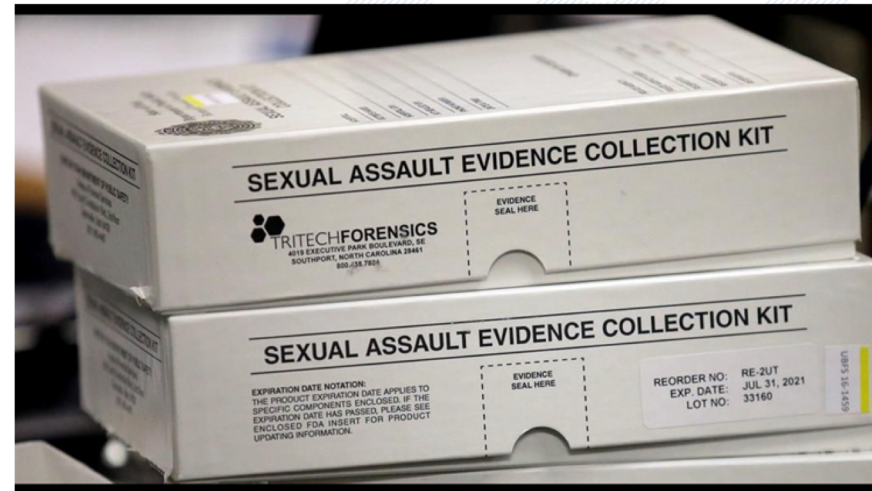


2017: “The total of **untested rape** kits held by the city of San Diego is approaching **2,900**, and each one should be examined”- City Attorney Mara Elliott

NEWS

Over 2,500 untested rape kits held by the city of San Diego

The total of untested rape kits held by the city of San Diego is approaching 2,900, and each one should be examined, City Attorney Mara Elliott said Tuesday.



Over 2,500 untested rape kits held by the city of San Diego

Author: [cbs8.com](https://www.cbs8.com)

Published: 11:57 AM PDT April 25, 2017

Updated: 11:57 AM PDT April 25, 2017



2020 Audit: “The San Diego Police Department has more untested rape kits than any other law enforcement agency in the state.”

PUBLIC SAFETY

SDPD Has the Most Untested Rape Kits in the State – by Far

A state audit published this week illuminates the extent to which SDPD has treated rape kits differently than its fellow law enforcement agencies across the state.

REPORTING AGENCY	KIT 2015 OR EARLIER	KIT 2016 OR LATER	KIT DATE UNCLEAR	TOTAL KITS
Escondido Police Department	3	-	12	15
National City Police Department	9	4	-	13
Oceanside Police Department	6	6	-	12
San Diego Police Department	-	-	1,627	1,627
San Diego Sheriff's Department Crime Lab	311	77	-	388
San Diego State University Police Department	3	2	-	5
TOTAL SAN DIEGO	338	101	1,639	2,078

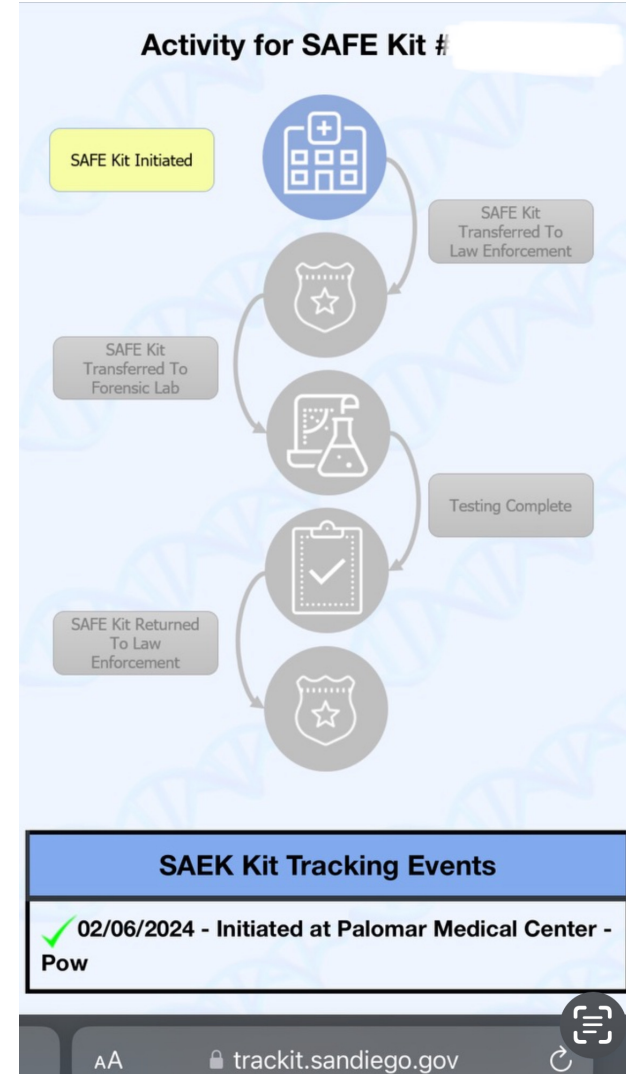
2021-25: Pushing for Progress in California

- California has achieved five of six pillars of rape kit reform. To reach comprehensive rape kit reform, the state must mandate the testing of previously untested kits. - *EndTheBacklog.org*
- A crime lab has 120 days to process sexual assault evidence and upload qualifying profiles to CODIS or 30 days to transmit the evidence to another lab.
- Under California Civil Procedure Code § 340.16, adult victims of sexual abuse and assault can file a lawsuit within 10 years of the incident. Alternatively, they may file within three years of discovering an injury or illness caused by the assault.

New Law:
Agencies must
Preserve
SAEKs, Audit
untested
evidence

- **Bill: Enacted**
- **SB464 enacted in California** In 2023, legislators in California enacted SB464. This bill requires all law enforcement agencies, medical facilities, crime laboratories, and any other facilities that receive, maintain, store, or preserve sexual assault evidence kits to conduct an audit of all untested sexual assault evidence kits in their possession. With this new inventory, we will have a better understanding of the extent of the backlog in the state.

After one
February 2024
assault: It took
a survivor in
San Diego
7 months to
get their
results.



Sources of information shown in previous slides

- State Audit: <https://information.auditor.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2014-109.pdf>
- <https://voiceofsandiego.org/2016/09/08/sdpc-doubles-decision-leave-rape-kits-untested/>
- <https://www.kpbs.org/news/2016/sep/13/why-rape-kits-go-untested-san-diego/>
- <https://www.kpbs.org/news/2017/04/25/city-attorney-calls-for-san-diego-to-tackle>
- <https://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/2800-rape-kits-sit-untested-in-san-diego/113041/>
- <https://www.cbs8.com/article/news/over-2500-untested-rape-kits-held-by-the-city-of-san-diego/509-e14b7706-e164-496a-9842-980foda1c8ed>
- <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/2023/10/28/san-diego-police-expect-to-clear-backlog-of-rape-kits-by-end-of-the-year-2/>
- Image of tracking data from SAKS app

Next: A survivor discusses their experience after an assault & SAEK exam in San Diego

