

RESOLUTION

2007-R-10

Resolution in support of state funding for the Acadiana Criminalistic Laboratory

WHEREAS, the Vermilion Parish Police Jury, a member Parish of the Acadiana Criminalistic Laboratory, strongly supports the efforts of the Criminalistic laboratory in providing quality analysis of evidence to aid in public safety initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the Acadiana Criminalistic Laboratory, through Chief Executive Office, Kevin Ardoin is an active member of the Louisiana Board of Criminalistic Laboratory Directors and Administrators (ABCLDA); and

WHEREAS, due to declining financial resources and increasing caseload, the seven member criminalistic laboratories of the ABCLDA are facing serious dilemmas in meeting the forensic needs of the criminal justice system in their respective service areas; and

WHEREAS, said member laboratories all face funding shortages and the problems caused by limited funding is most acute in the North Louisiana Criminalistic Laboratory, Acadiana Criminalistic Laboratory and Southwest Louisiana Criminalistic Laboratory that operate on income from court fines, as prescribed in Louisiana R.S. 40:2266, are subsidized by individual Parishes; as prescribed by statute, that invest tens of thousands of dollars each year; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature, over 30 years ago, created a means to offer forensic laboratory services and a manner for funding these laboratories through court fines; and

WHEREAS, until the year 2000, this method worked well in providing for sufficient funding without using the tax dollars of the citizens of Louisiana; now, however, those three criminalistic laboratories, created by the State must look to the State to meet their funding needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Vermilion Parish Police Jury does hereby strongly encourage the Louisiana Legislature to review the issues surrounding the funding of criminalistic laboratories throughout the State and address the need of providing adequate, recurring revenue to cover the cost of forensic services of all of the criminalistic laboratories giving particular attention to the North Louisiana Criminalistic Laboratory, the Acadiana Criminalistic Laboratory and the Southwest Louisiana Criminalistic Laboratory that as creations of the State of Louisiana are required to operate on funds generated by methods defined by the Legislature.

I, Chris P. Theriot, Administrator/Secretary-Treasurer, of the Vermilion Parish Police Jury, do hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a resolution adopted by the Vermilion Parish Police Jury at their meeting held on April 2, 2007, at which a quorum was present and acting.

Chris P. Theriot
Administrator/Secretary-Treasurer
Vermilion Parish Police Jury