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### The History of Orchid's Biotracks® Program

Property crime is more than a nuisance and a source of citizen frustration. It is a huge problem and a breeding ground for more serious crime. This reality compels action. There are ten times more property crimes than violent crimes, and property criminals commit offense after offense, clogging up the system, tying up valuable police resources and costing taxpayers billions of dollars. And it's a fact, property crime perpetrators often graduate to more violent crimes including rape, assault, armed robbery and murder.

Based on this evident need to become more aggressive in solving property crimes, Orchid Cellmark collaborated with the New York Police Department Crime Laboratory to develop Biotracks®, a service that utilizes DNA profiles in property crime cases. This project involved analysis of 500 pieces of evidence from 300 cases collected over 6 months in three precincts in the Borough of Queens yielding 185 DNA profiles. 145 of those DNA profiles were uploaded to the CODIS database resulting in hits on 44 samples. This is equivalent to a 33% cold hit rate, thereby creating a new investigative tool for property crimes.

### Property Crime Facts

- The upper 10 percentile of burglars commit in excess of 250 burglaries per year
- Property crime cases are ten fold higher than violent crime cases
- Property crime offenders routinely evolve into violent criminals
- Property crime is pervasive and affects citizens emotionally and economically
- DNA evidence can be collected from a property crime scene at least half of the time
- A federal study on recidivism found that 1 in 5 released property offenders were arrested within 3 years for a violent crime following their release from prison

### Orchid Cellmark's Biotracks® Program

Orchid Cellmark's Biotracks® program has taken the successes of the NYPD program and made it available to all agencies. It includes testing of specimens from property crimes such as:

- cigarette butts left at scene
- blood stains from point of entry
- discarded chewing gum from scene
- discarded drinking containers left at scene
- contact evidence such as hats, scarves and gloves
- swabs from doorknobs and window sashes
- half-eaten food left at scene

### Optional Enhancements

- Expedited turnaround time on request
- Orchid Cellmark will use expert systems to assess matches to an offline local database of anonymous convicted offenders sourced from the State database
- Orchid Cellmark will provide electronic DNA data to police who choose to search their own database

### DNA & Property Crime Statistics

- New York's Division of Criminal Justice Services reports that 82% of offenders linked through DNA to violent crime were in the database as a result of a prior conviction for a "lesser" crime such as burglary or drugs.
- Florida's Department of Law Enforcement reports 52% of database hits against murder and sexual assault cases were matched individuals who had prior convictions for burglary
- Virginia's Division of Criminal Justice Services reports 38% of violent crimes solved on the DNA database were perpetrated by offenders with previous property crime convictions.

### Success of Biotracks® DNA programs:

- In the UK, for property crime cases when biological evidence is recovered, the arrest rate triples from 15% to 45%
- In Virginia, DNA testing is being used in property crime investigations with a hit rate of 30%
- In Virginia, to date, 1600 cases have been solved
- In related efforts, Palm Beach showed a 39% hit rate and Miami-Dade found a 51% hit rate

### The Benefits of Biotracks®

- Increase in the number of solved property crimes
- Provides tool to investigators which will reduce investigative time
- Decrease in the number of burglaries by preventing future burglaries
- Stops criminals before their career can progress to more serious crimes
- Helps police to determine if crime is serial in nature, even if there is no suspect
- Puts DNA data into the hands of the police
- Makes cold hits the rule rather than the exception

For more information, contact Orchid Cellmark at:  
1-800-USA-LABS (872-5227) in the US and  
1-866-TEST-DNA (837-8362) in Canada or  
visit us online at [www.orchidcellmark.com](http://www.orchidcellmark.com)