

# *AFIS* King County REGIONAL PROGRAM

Automated Fingerprint Identification System



Annual *2019* REPORT

# Message from the AAC Chair

On behalf of the King County AFIS Advisory Committee, I am pleased to present the 2019 annual report of the King County Regional AFIS program. For over 30 years, law enforcement agencies and jails throughout the County have relied on AFIS technology and professional staff to identify suspects and provide evidence for use in court. This report provides details of the services offered by the AFIS Program and shares stories of cases solved through the exceptional work of staff utilizing this critical regional resource.

As it has evolved, the AFIS Program has continued to provide the region with up-to-date identification technology and keep operating costs low even while expanding the services offered. The high level of service offered to King County's law enforcement agencies would not be possible without the dedicated employees that make up the AFIS Program. Thank you to the talented professionals who make possible the accomplishments described in this report.

2020 will be a year of transition for AFIS with the planned retirement of Carol Gillespie, the Regional AFIS Manager for the past 12.5 years. Under her leadership, the AFIS Program passed the last two six-year operating levies, provided Mobile ID devices to police officers throughout the County, expanded crime-scene support to police, and secured funding for a new regional processing lab, scheduled to open in 2020. Please join me in thanking Carol for her years of service to the King County AFIS program.

I encourage you to learn more about the program's goals and accomplishments by reviewing this report, which is also available online at [www.kingcounty.gov/afis](http://www.kingcounty.gov/afis).



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## Program Mission

*The Regional AFIS Program promotes public safety and contributes to crime reduction by providing expert fingerprint identification services to criminal justice agencies throughout King County.*

King County's Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) is a countywide program that provides the staff and technology to support criminal fingerprint identification services for all 39 cities and unincorporated areas. This regional approach provides enhanced services through shared resources.

### Program Objectives

1. To quickly identify arrested individuals, preventing the wrongful release of those using false names, and establish accurate criminal history records.
2. To identify crime scene fingerprints and palmprints that aid in investigations and provide evidence in court.



### Technology

- The AFIS database searches and stores biometric records
- 55 Livescan devices capture prints, photos and demographics for transmission to the local, state, and federal identification systems
- 260 Mobile ID devices, used by officers in the field to identify people within minutes

### Strategic Benefits

- Invests in centralized staff and technology with an overall lower cost than agencies funding their own
- Contributes to information sharing between agencies
- Supports task forces, special initiatives, and major crime investigations

### Staff Services

Arrest Identification • Crime Scene Processing • Latent Print Analysis  
Technology Management • Customer Support & Training • Information  
Sharing

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Photography: KCSO and SPD Photography Units

## 2019 AFIS Advisory Committee

### Chair

**Andrew Bauck**

Executive Analyst,  
King County Office of  
Performance, Strategy & Budget

### Vice-Chair

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Normandy Park Police Department

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City of Seattle

**Dawn Quaale**

City of Seattle  
Forensic Support Svcs Manager  
Seattle Police Department

**Chief Patti Cole-Tindall**

King County Sheriff's Office

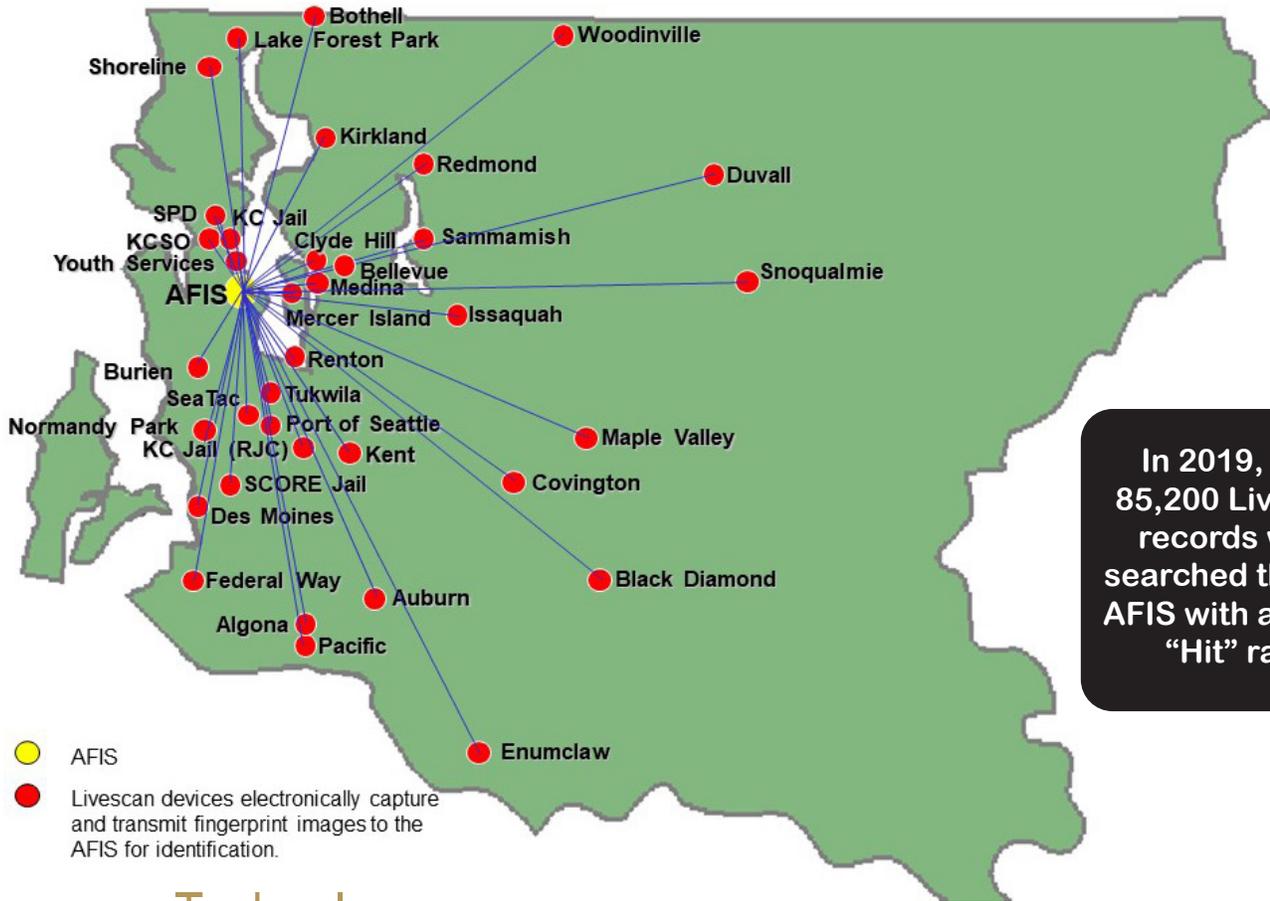
**Carol Gillespie**

Regional AFIS Manager  
King County Sheriff's Office

**Samantha Porter**

Senior Legislative Analyst  
King County Council

*A special thank you to outgoing  
members Bill Pierson & Steve Sutton*



In 2019, over 85,200 Livescan records were searched through AFIS with a 68.9% "Hit" rate.

## Program Technology

### AFIS Database

AFIS is a biometric identification system that uses digital imaging technology to obtain, store, and analyze print data. Replacement of this technology was approved in July and a contract signed with the existing vendor, IDEMIA (formerly MorphoTrak). The program provides AFIS search capability to support all law enforcement agencies within King County.

### Livescan

Biometrics4All livescan devices are used to electronically capture and transmit fingerprint and palmprint images to the AFIS database for identification. The prints are searched locally and transmitted to state and federal identification systems.

Livescans produce fast and accurate identification of arrested individuals. They are located primarily at law enforcement agencies throughout the county as shown on the map above.

### Mobile ID

Mobile ID (also an IDEMIA product) consists of handheld fingerprint capture devices and software that allow officers in the field to search two fingerprints in the AFIS database and receive results within minutes. Identities can be quickly confirmed, enabling officers to make critical decisions on whether to detain subjects. The prints are searched through the King County AFIS, the state database through the Western Identification Network (WIN), and the FBI's Repository for Individuals of Special Concern (RISC). Fingerprints are not saved on the device nor stored in the AFIS database. Mobile ID is helping law enforcement personnel get identification results quickly in the field.

***In 2019, 5,027 Mobile ID searches were submitted to the AFIS resulting in 4,182 identifications.***

# Program Finances

## Program Funding

Since its inception in 1988, the AFIS program has been supported by a voter-approved property tax levy. The current levy was approved in August 2018 at a status quo level that assumes no new major investments.

Although law enforcement agencies are typically responsible for costs associated with performing their own criminal identification functions, the investment in biometric technology, staff, equipment, and other resources is beyond the capacity of local jurisdictions to finance independently. The regional approach made possible by the levy proceeds takes the burden off of local agencies by providing them with core fingerprint services and technology.

AFIS Fund Revenue	Actual Revenue	%Total Revenue
Property (Levy) Taxes	\$21,047,416	97.06%
Investment Interest	\$530,490	2.44%
Other (Excise tax & timber sales)	\$106,182	0.50%
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$21,684,088</b>	<b>100%</b>
AFIS Fund Expense	Actual Expense	%Total Expense
Salaries and Benefits	\$10,184,578	41.06%
City of Seattle*	\$4,065,776	16.39%
Intergovernmental Overhead	\$2,983,018	12.03%
Supplies and Services	\$684,803	2.76%
Capital Equipment	\$322,785	1.30%
Lab Replacement Project	\$6,564,282	26.46%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$24,805,242</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*This number includes salaries, benefits, supplies, and training.

## Taxpayer Value

The property tax levy approved in 2018 supports services from 2019-2024 with an initial levy rate of \$0.03501 per \$1,000 of assessed value, or \$17.51/year for a home with an assessed value of \$500,000. Due to increases in the assessed value of King County homes and to limits on increases in the total amount collected, the rate charged to property owners fell steadily during the previous levy period; if property values continue to increase, the tax rate will likely continue to decline during the current levy.

The 2013-2018 levy plan included financing to replace the outdated processing laboratory. The new laboratory will be completed in early 2020. In addition, conscientious financial management and cost reductions left the AFIS program with sufficient funding to undertake two additional capital projects: Relocation of most AFIS staff to the processing lab and replacing the aging core AFIS computer. The AFIS program began the 2019-2024 levy period with a healthy fund balance even after accounting for these infrastructure investments.

***In 2019, AFIS Examiners identified many individuals with outstanding warrants. Of these, 30 were not eligible for bail. The remaining had warrants totaling over \$1 million dollars.***

## Arrest Identification Services

Livescan devices are used at correctional facilities and police agencies to electronically capture and transmit finger and palm print images to the AFIS database for identification 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Anyone found to be using a false name is immediately reported to the arresting officer or detention facility. This process ensures that people arrested are positively identified prior to release from custody, preventing individuals from hiding criminal records or evading warrants, or preventing



agencies from detaining the wrong individuals.

Staff provide arrest information to update state and federal rapsheets. Arrest data is reported quickly so that courts, law enforcement, and licensing agencies have access to the most current criminal history record information possible. These records are used for criminal and background investigations, sentencing determinations, and some types of applicant checks.

## Crime Scene Identification Services

Prints left unintentionally on surfaces are referred to as latent prints because they are not visible. These prints need physical chemical or photographic processing to be visualized. Staff with specialized training process crime scenes and items from crime scenes for latent prints.

Once developed, latent prints are compared to known subjects or searched through the local, state, and/or federal AFIS databases to determine who may have been present and left the prints. Latent prints that are identified as part of an investigation may result in staff testifying in court to their findings.

### ***Cold Case Rape, New Leads***

*In 1991 a young mother in Seattle was raped at knife point in her own home by a masked individual. Both latent prints and DNA evidence were recovered. The crime was investigated but did not yield a suspect that could be tied to the scene. In 2019, the recovered latent prints were re-analyzed and searched in local, state and national AFIS databases, something that was not possible in 1991. Two latent prints recovered from the scene were identified to two previously unassociated subjects. Given these identifications, a nearly 20-year-old rape case has new leads.*

### ***Identification in Homicide After 50 Years***

*In 1967, a records clerk for the Seattle Police Department was sexually assaulted and strangled in a parking garage elevator at the Seattle Center. Seattle Police diligently processed the scene; finger and palm prints were recovered from the elevator and the victim's clothing was collected. Numerous leads were exhausted, and the case remained unsolved. As technology advanced, the victim's clothing was submitted to the state crime lab in 2002 and a DNA profile was created. Sadly, it did not match anyone in the database. In 2018, the profile was sent to a genetic genealogy company that conducted ancestral research for the creation of family trees and a person of interest emerged. The prints from inside the elevator were compared to the prints of this person of interest and he was identified as the source of a palm print on the elevator control panel. The detective secured a search warrant to exhume his remains (he had died in 1987). In April 2019, the DNA recovered from the victim was confirmed and the 52-year-old homicide was solved.*

## Photography Services

The KCSO and SPD Photography Units provide specialized expertise for forensic and public relations purposes. The AFIS levy does not fund these units, but provides minimal supplemental funding due to the volume of forensic photography work performed for the program.



## Technology Support & Training

The AFIS Program provides technical and helpdesk support for all users of the AFIS, livescan, and mobile ID services. Staff also coordinate fingerprint related training for officers and examiners, facilitate communication among stakeholders throughout the county, and participate in community events.

## Community Involvement

An important part of the AFIS Program is sharing information with the public. This is done through school science fairs, festivals, community picnics, National Night Out events, forensic and science classes, and career conferences. At these events, AFIS staff share information about their jobs and the work they perform. They also educate audiences about the forensic field and how AFIS contributes to community safety.

## Program & Technology Management

AFIS program management oversees daily operations, acquisitions, budget, and the use and maintenance of fingerprint technology throughout the county. The project team ensures compliance with state and national security standards, administers program initiatives, and responds to issues in the ever-changing biometric and forensic disciplines.



*“The investigative tools provided by the Regional AFIS Program are essential to our ability to fight crime in King County. From identifying felons with warrants for their arrest, to catching and holding repeat auto thieves and burglars, AFIS allows law enforcement to work quickly to identify suspects and hold them accountable.*

*The services AFIS provides are critical to an effective criminal justice system.”*

**Dan Satterberg**

### ***Photo Technology Used to Solve Burglary***

*A Seattle residence was burglarized. Two vehicles along with multiple items including a rifle, were taken. A few days later, both vehicles were located abandoned, one with extensive damage. Items, including the rifle, found in the vehicles were submitted for latent print processing. One item was a clear plastic container. The examiner developed print ridge detail on the container; then recorded it using ultraviolet photography. Shortwave ultraviolet light fluoresced the latent print while minimizing the background glow from structural pieces of the container. This unique technique allowed for a detailed capture of the print on a translucent surface. This print was searched through the AFIS database and identified to a subject who was subsequently charged with residential burglary.*

## Processing Lab Replacement

The lab, which provides service to 37 cities and unincorporated King County, is being replaced to provide more space to address safety and efficiency concerns, and prevent cross-contamination from different types of evidence. This new lab will ensure consistent and timely service for customers.

### *Project Timeline:*

**2012** The replacement project for the King County evidence processing lab was approved by voters.

**2013** Planning began, and the project team toured three new out-of-state labs.

**2014** A needs assessment was completed which determined the technical, mechanical, HVAC, electrical, lighting, fiber optics, and computer networking requirements of the new lab. The search was on for the right location.

**2015** The lab replacement team worked with King County Real Estate Services and a broker on potential site locations for the new lab. Multiple sites were considered, including one owned by the county. A consultant completed a suitability assessment of the county-owned building and the Facilities Management Division submitted a proviso response to the King County Council outlining the lab project.

**2016** A county-owned property located in Renton was selected. Buffalo Design was chosen as the consultant for the building design. The lab replacement team worked with the consultant on the design.

**2017-18** The location, design and permitting phases were completed.

Construction began in early **2019** and the doors will open to customers early **2020**.



*The King County Regional AFIS Program continues to make great technological advancements in support of providing the best identification services possible for the safety of its officers and its communities.*



*The new lab will provide space for various chemical processes to be performed simultaneously with the goal of eliminating the possibility of cross-contamination or safety hazards.*



# King County AFIS News

King County - Seattle - Bellevue

## Home Invasion/Assault Suspect Apprehended

A subject knocked on a front door of a home asking for work to do. The homeowner



declined but provided the subject with a glass of water. After the drink the subject put on gloves and forced his way into the house where he bound the homeowner with duct tape, assaulted him, and took numerous items. Unsure if he wore gloves the entire time, latent processors worked the scene for prints. A print was lifted from the water glass which identified

the unknown subject. Upon arrest, the subject asked the detective how he knew it was him. The detective declined to respond but a few seconds later the subject said - "It was the glass, wasn't it!!!".



## King County AFIS News

### Armed Robberies Solved

Within 40 minutes, armed robberies occurred at two separate gas stations where three male suspects, who had their faces completely covered and wore all black, put a gun in the clerk's face and against his head, then took cash and property from the store and from the clerk. The suspects fled on foot after the second robbery. One suspect was caught by a police canine. Another suspect was caught by an officer. The remaining suspect was not located but his vehicle, stolen in a carjacking earlier in the day, was located, impounded and

processed by technicians. Prints recovered from inside the vehicle were analyzed and all three suspects were identified.

### Purse Snatchers

Three women were shopping downtown when three young men attacked the women from behind, throwing them to the ground and grabbing their purses. One woman was dragged quite a distance before the suspect was able to get her purse. During the commotion, one of the plastic grocery bags carried by the victim was ripped from her hands. The bag was

processed at the lab for prints, which were searched through AFIS. An identification was made to one of the suspects.

### Bank Robbery

A suspect, wielding a screwdriver, robbed a bank and attempted a carjacking while fleeing. Officers caught and detained the suspect when the carjacking failed. A print lifted by an officer from the bank counter was identified to the suspect, who was then also identified to prints recovered on a vehicle in an attempted auto theft that occurred immediately before the bank robbery.

## King County AFIS News

### **Burglaries/Auto Thefts Solved**

Within a week of each other, three homes listed for sale were broken into. All three homes were used by the suspects as places to hang out and steal items. Cars were stolen from two of the garages. Prints lifted by officers at the points of entry and items submitted and processed in the lab resulted in identifications to four subjects. One subject was identified from both the houses where cars were stolen. One identification was made from tape used by the suspect to cover a doorbell

camera. Once identifications were made to two of the suspects, they were tracked via cell phones and a stolen vehicle was located and recovered.

### **Serial Burglar Caught**

A significant pattern of over 25 commercial burglaries and auto thefts kept occurring in the same neighborhood. A delivery van that was stolen in one of the burglaries was submitted for latent print processing. Within a week, the prints were compared, and identified to a subject.

### **Drugs and Gun**

A subject was contacted on a traffic stop and found to have a suspended license. The subject was cited and the vehicle was impounded. The owner of vehicle was contacted who stated suspect did not have permission to drive his vehicle. The owner gave consent to search the vehicle and a stolen firearm and meth were found in the center console. The stolen firearm, magazine and ammo were submitted to the lab for latent processing. Latents recovered from both the gun and one of the live rounds were identified to the suspect.

## King County AFIS News

### **Fentanyl Trafficker**

Working in conjunction with the ATF, a firearm was processed by AFIS for fingerprints. One print was recovered, compared and identified to a subject. The subject was a fentanyl trafficker that had been distributing thousands of fentanyl pills out of his bedroom each week for over a year. With the identification of the subject's print on the firearm, he was charged with possessing the firearm in furtherance of his drug trafficking crimes. This is a charge that carries a five-year mandatory minimum sentence. In Federal Court,

the subject was found guilty of this charge in addition to Conspiracy to Distribute and Possession of Fentanyl with Intent to Distribute.

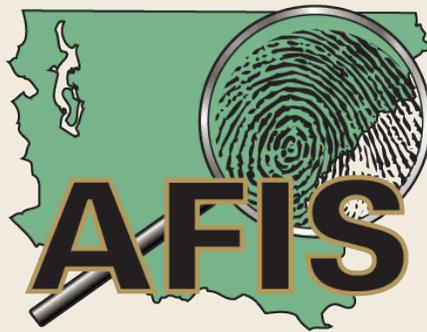
### **Six Robbers Busted**

Officers responded to an armed robbery involving six subjects. Officers reviewed video footage for the incident and saw that two subjects touched the back window of the van which was parked in the back driveway. Officers lifted prints and submitted them for examination. The latent prints were identified to the two subjects. Without this identification, the case would

not have been solved. Two subjects later pleaded guilty to Robbery-1.

### **Fraud**

A large-scale fraud investigation conducted along the west coast revealed the use of high-dollar fraudulent checks and false identifications in a home escrow scheme where homes were being sold without the owners' permission. A check was submitted to the lab to be processed for prints. An identification was made to a subject that matched the video surveillance at the bank where he was seen attempting to cash that same check.



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