
MEMORANDUM

**TO: Frank Rotondo, Executive Director
GACP**

**Terry Norris, CEO
Georgia Sheriffs' Association**

**FROM: Vernon M. Keenan
Director**

DATE: July 1, 2010

RE: Columbus and Moultrie Crime Labs

This morning the GBI received further instructions regarding the GBI Crime Labs located in Columbus and Moultrie. As you will recall, both of the laboratories were slated for closure due to budget cuts. In the 2011 budget the Legislature restored and enhanced funding to keep these facilities open. Following further review, the Governor has decided that despite the current budget situation, the Columbus Lab will remain open and the Moultrie Lab will be repaired and reopened. The GBI will take immediate steps to comply with the Legislative intent and the Governor's decision to keep these facilities open and provide forensic services at the local community level.

Forensic analysis is a critical service that the GBI provides to the criminal justice community in Georgia. At the request of GACP President Chief Stacey Cotton, Dr. Robbie Friedmann of Georgia State University has assembled a committee to include chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, defense attorneys and judges to look at the forensic needs of the criminal justice community, and the resources required by the GBI Crime Lab to meet those needs. The committee's work will provide a Crime Lab needs assessment for policy makers and legislators as they make decisions during these difficult budget times.

VMK:djh