

Automated Fingerprint Identification System



KING COUNTY REGIONAL



2020

Annual Report

Message from the AFIS Advisory Committee Chair



Chief Dan Yourkoski
Normandy Park Police Department
AFIS Advisory Committee Chair

On behalf of the King County AFIS Advisory Committee, it is my privilege to share with you the King County Regional AFIS program's 2020 annual report. Since 1986 when the first funding levy passed, law enforcement agencies and jails throughout King County have become reliant on the technology and staff expertise offered by the AFIS Program. This collaboration has led to new programs including Mobile Identification and Mobile Processing Teams which in turn has led to more suspect identifications than ever before.

The lifeblood of the King County AFIS program continues to be its people. Never before has this been more apparent than in 2020 when facing a global

pandemic. The challenges of COVID-19 have had to be carefully balanced against the mission of the department. In February, the new regional processing lab opened in Renton with a very smooth transition. Throughout it all, stakeholders have been able to continue to rely on the services and support received from King County AFIS.

2021 will be an opportunity to apply lessons learned from the uncertainty of 2020 into not only exploring the potential for new technologies but also increased efficiencies.

I encourage you to learn more about the program's goals and accomplishments by reviewing this report, which can also be found online at www.kingcounty.gov/afis.

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Mission

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

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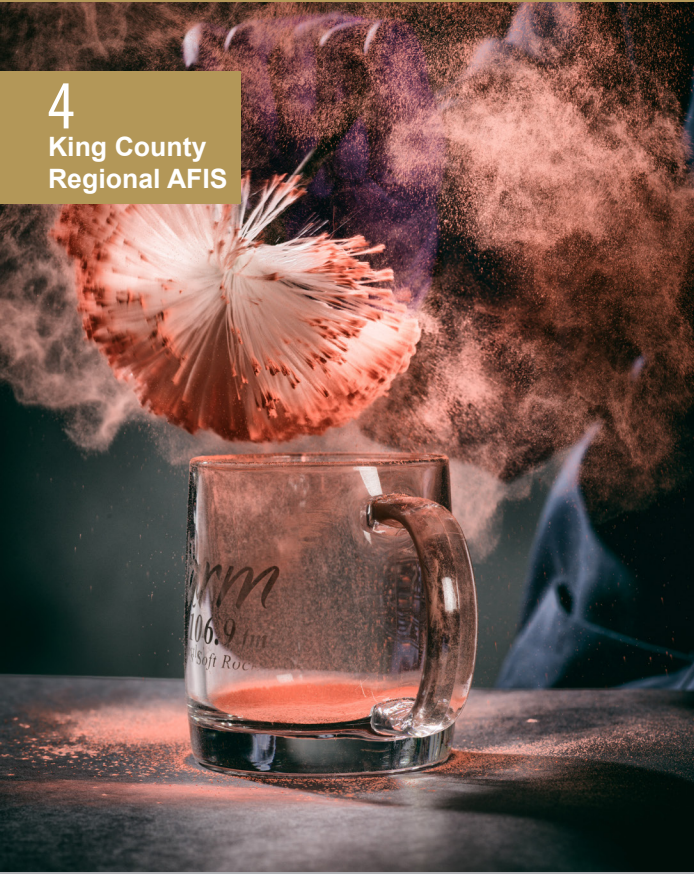
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*A special thanks to our
outgoing members
Carol Gillespie,
Patti Cole-Tindall,
and John McCracken.*

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Program Overview

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King County's Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) is a countywide program that provides the staff and technology to support 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

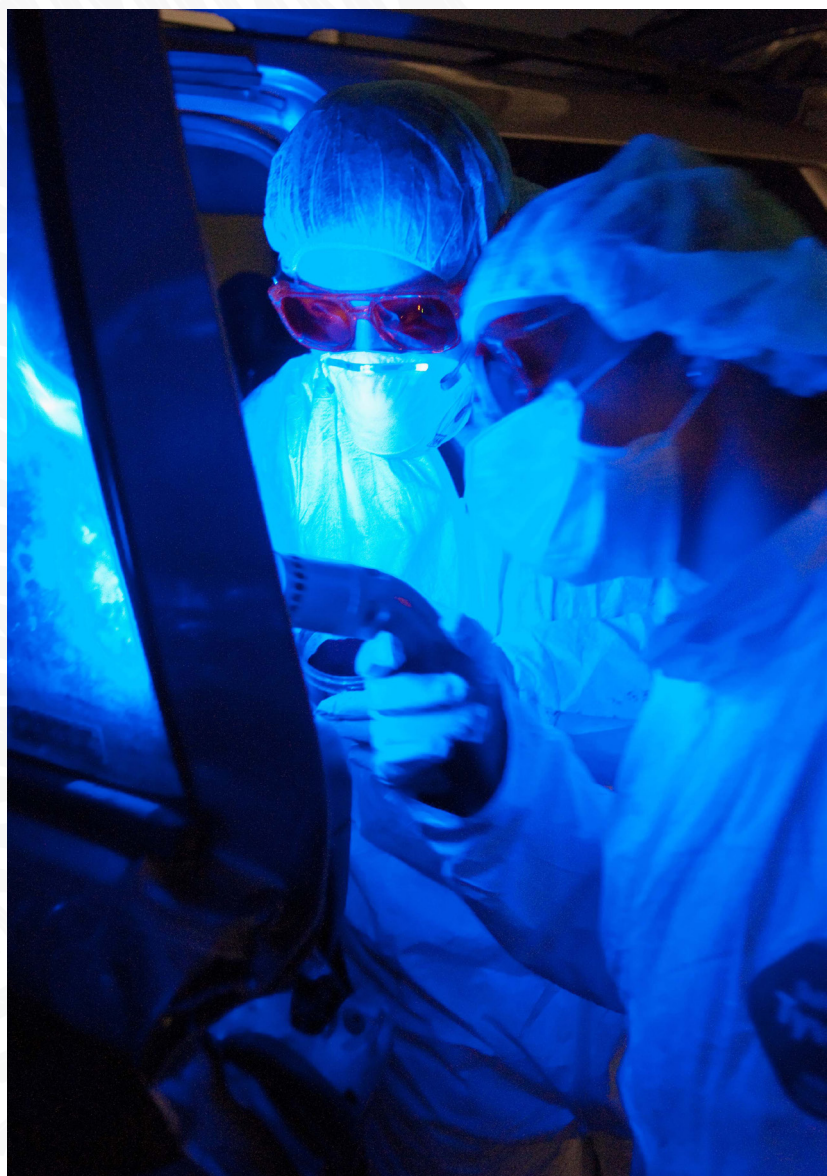
- The AFIS database retains over 1.4 million records for efficient storage and matching capabilities
- 50+ Livescan devices deployed throughout the region capture prints, photos and demographics and electronically transmit that data to the local, state, and federal identification systems
- 260 Mobile ID devices allow officers in the field to quickly identify people without the need to transport them to a secondary booking location

Strategic Benefits

- Provides expert staff and current technology with an overall lower cost than if agencies funded their own units
- Creates a local, centralized database of biometric information which can be utilized by all local agencies
- Faster completion times for cases and arrestee identifications

Staff Services

- Collection of booking fingerprints, mug shots and DNA
- Arrest Identification
- Criminal History Reporting
- Crime Scene Processing
- Latent Print Analysis
- Technology Management
- Customer Support & Training
- Information Sharing
- Identification of deceased individuals
- Assistance with identity theft issues



Program Finances

Funding

Since its inception in 1988, the King County 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 assumed no major new 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 costly for any single jurisdiction to finance independently. The regional approach made possible through levy funding provides law enforcement and corrections agencies throughout King County with core fingerprint services and technology, leaving local resources for other priorities.

Taxpayer Value

The AFIS property tax rate was \$0.03403 per \$1,000 of assessed value in 2020, or \$17.02 for a home with an assessed value of \$500,000. This was down slightly from the rate in the initial year of the 2019-2024 levy. Due to the limit on the total amount collected each year, the rate charged to property owners will fall over the course of the levy if property values continue to increase.

Looking Ahead

The 2019-2024 levy plan did not include funding for any major capital investments, however conscientious financial management and cost reductions enabled the AFIS program to undertake two capital projects out of existing resources, both of which will come to completion in 2021. In 2020 AFIS management made arrangements to relocate most of the AFIS staff to a new facility in Renton. Additionally, conversion of the AFIS computer to a cloud-based system with improved matching capability was largely completed.

2020 Revenue and Expenditures

AFIS Fund Revenue	Actual Revenue	%Total Revenue
Property (Levy) Taxes	\$21,580,724	98.1%
Investment Interest	\$328,881	1.5%
Other / Misc.	\$94,775	.4%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$22,004,380	100%
AFIS Fund Expense	Actual Expense	%Total Expense
Salaries and Benefits	\$10,341,555	48.8%
City of Seattle*	\$4,473,504	21.1%
Intergovernmental Overhead	\$3,115,917	14.7%
Supplies and Services	\$827,041	3.9%
Capital Equipment	\$2,437,938	11.5%

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

Program Technology

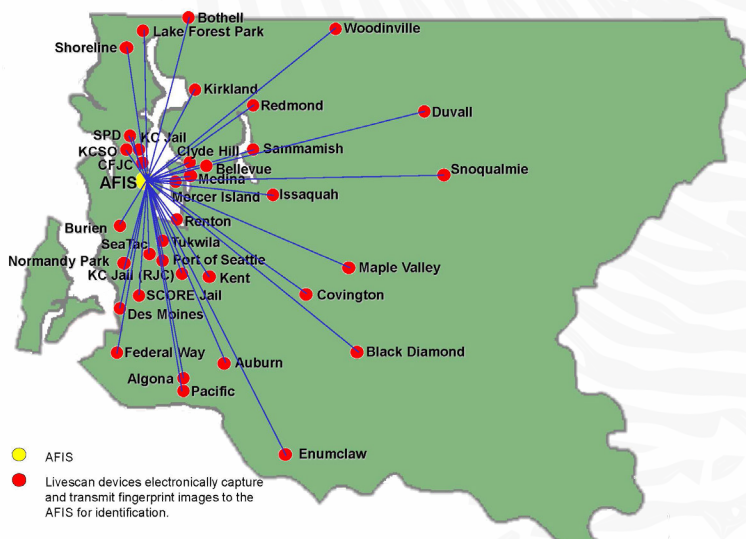
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AFIS Database

AFIS is a biometric identification system that uses digital imaging to obtain, store and match print data. The database contains the finger and palm prints of over 800,000 individuals and provides search capability to support all law enforcement agencies within King County. In 2020, King County's AFIS computer system went through a major upgrade to a cloud based system with improved matching algorithms.

Livescans

Livescan devices are used to electronically capture and transmit fingerprint and palmprint images to the AFIS. The prints are searched locally and then transmitted to state and federal identification systems. King County AFIS currently has 55 livescans located throughout the county in police departments, correctional facilities and government offices.



Mobile ID

Mobile ID consists of handheld fingerprint capture devices that allow officers in the field to quickly identify individuals without the need to transport them to a secondary booking location. Field identification enables officers to make critical decisions on whether to detain subjects. The prints are searched through the King County AFIS database as well as the Washington State database and Federal Repository for Individuals of Special Concern (RISC). Fingerprints are not saved on the device nor stored in the AFIS database.



Program Services

Identification Services

Livescan devices deployed throughout the county transmit finger and palm print images to the AFIS database for identification 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Prints may be taken for criminal booking, license applications, or background checks. Any discrepancies between the information being used and the information in the database is immediately reported to the agency submitting the prints. This process ensures that prior to release from custody, the identity of those arrested is verified and associated with their known criminal history, preventing individuals from using false names to evade warrants, and potentially advising agencies if they have detained an individual who is not the person associated with a warrant.

Staff provide arrest information for inclusion on state and federal rapsheets, ensuring that the

courts, law enforcement, and licensing agencies have access to up-to-date criminal history record information. These records are used for criminal investigations, applicant backgrounding, and sentencing determinations.

Crime Scene Identification

Prints left unintentionally on surfaces are referred to as latent prints because they are typically not visible. These prints require some form of processing to be visualized. Staff with specialized training process crime scenes and evidence items for latent prints.

Once developed, latent prints are compared to known subjects or searched through the King County AFIS database to determine who may have touched an item. Unidentified prints can also be searched through the state and federal databases.





Photography

Both 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.

Program Management & Technology

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.

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, 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.

2020 Year In Review

Noteable Events

Feb: King County Processing Lab replacement completed

May: Retirement of longtime AFIS Manager Carol Gillespie

Aug: Seattle Police Latent Unit successfully assessed for accreditation for the 6th year

Nov: King County Latent Unit successfully assessed for accreditation for the 8th year

Remarkable Stories

Sexual Assault

In two similar cases, victims believing they were reporting for a job interview ended up being attacked by the person posing as an employer. Technicians were asked to process the scenes and they were able to recover multiple prints of value. Prints in both cases were identified to a known person of interest in the case.

Serial Burglary

When a victim of a burglary confronted the suspect and demanded the return of his property, he found himself at the end of a firearm pointed at his head. The suspect fled the area, but latent prints recovered at the scene resulted in an identification in the case as well as at least four other burglaries in the area.

Vehicle Theft

Video surveillance showed the actions of a thief who prowled several vehicles in a neighborhood and ultimately fled the scene in a stolen car, however no one could visually identify the suspect. Latent prints recovered from one vehicle as well as the recovered stolen car all led back to a single suspect.

Kidnapping

Seattle Police responded to a disturbance call where officers could hear a female yelling for help inside an apartment. The male who answered the door was taken into custody and an injured female was found in the bedroom. She stated that she had been held against her will and assaulted for at least 2 weeks. A handgun found under a mattress was processed by a Seattle examiner and latent prints found on the firearm were identified to a male at the scene.

Homeless in Need

A Police Detective from Bend, Oregon noticed that a homeless person was in need of help caring for himself. He was unable to speak, keep himself warm or fed, and he appeared to have dementia. Attempts to locally identify the person were made, but were unsuccessful. Bend Police contacted King County AFIS for help and within 24 hours AFIS staff had identified the man from a card on file at the FBI. He was 75 years old and from Tennessee. They got him medical care and started looking for his family.



Death Investigation

Seattle Police were dispatched to Alki beach for a report of a suspicious bag floating in the water. The foul smelling luggage that was retrieved was found to contain dismembered human remains. Despite decomposition, Seattle examiners were able to roll prints from the dismembered hands and positively identify the two victims through AFIS searches. A suspect has been arrested.

Missing Person

A woman contacted the King County Medical Examiner's Office for help finding information pertaining to her uncle who disappeared in Seattle over 35 years ago. The Medical Examiner did have record of a John Doe who was found deceased in 1984 with similarity to the missing uncle. A fingerprint card was contained in the case, but the woman's missing uncle had never been fingerprinted, leaving investigators with nothing to compare to the file prints. The woman produced a letter written by her uncle before his disappearance and asked if the letter may contain latent prints that could be compared to the fingerprint card. King County AFIS staff used chemicals to develop prints on the letter which were then compared and identified to those in the 35 year-old cold case. This provided the much needed link between the missing uncle and the John Doe, providing closure to the family after 35 years.

Fraud

Victims of a fraudulent iPhone buyer were shocked to discover that they had been given envelopes full of fake money for their devices. Bellevue's forensics lab was able to develop latent prints on the fake money and identify a suspect when a single latent was searched through AFIS. The suspect's prints were then linked to several similar cases and an armed robbery.

Robbery

Deputies were called to a night-time robbery of a convenience store in south King County. Video of the crime showed a subject placing his hands on the counter as he jumped over to the cashier's side. A King County examiner processed the counter and lifted a print that was identified to an individual who was later arrested for the crime.

Mobile Identification

During a routine traffic stop for an equipment violation, the driver of the vehicle told a King County deputy that he had no license or identification. He did provide a name and date of birth that came back clear of any warrants. Using the mobile ID scanner, the deputy was quickly able to determine that the driver was using his brother's identity and was hiding several warrants. He was booked into King County jail and prosecutors were sent charging information.

Statistics

42,453 Tenprint Records
Searched

28,107 Jail Bookings

13,195 Individuals Added
to the AFIS Database

5,120 Mobile ID Searches

2,028 Crime Scenes

4,723 Latent Cases

9,944 Evidence Items



KING COUNTY REGIONAL AFIS

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