



**2023**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF  
THE KING COUNTY  
REGIONAL AFIS PROGRAM**

# A MESSAGE FROM THE AFIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR

On behalf of the AFIS Advisory Committee, it is with great pleasure that we present the 2023 annual report for the King County Regional Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) Program. Reflecting on the past year, we are proud to share the remarkable progress, achievements, and advancements in biometric technology and public safety.

Funded by a county-wide property tax levy, the King County Regional AFIS Program has been at the forefront of utilizing cutting-edge fingerprint identification technology to enhance law enforcement capabilities, streamline processes, and contribute to our communities' overall safety and security. This annual report serves as a comprehensive overview of the program's activities, initiatives, and the positive impact on law enforcement operations throughout the region.

In the following pages, you will find detailed insights into the key milestones achieved, technological upgrades implemented, collaborative efforts with law enforcement agencies, and the overall effectiveness of the AFIS system in quickly identifying individuals and solving crimes. Additionally, we will delve into the program's commitment to innovation, training, and community engagement, showcasing our dedication to staying ahead of the curve in the ever-evolving landscape of forensic technology.

As we navigate the challenges and opportunities in biometrics, the King County Regional AFIS Program remains steadfast in its mission to provide state-of-the-art fingerprint identification services that contribute to our communities' safety, security, and well-being. We thank our partners, stakeholders, and the dedicated professionals who make this program successful.

I encourage you to learn more about this regional program by reviewing this 2023 report, found online at [www.kingcounty.gov/afis](http://www.kingcounty.gov/afis).

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Jeff Magnan  
Operations Commander  
Mercer Island Police Department  
King County AFIS Advisory Committee Chair



# AFIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## CHAIR

**Commander Jeff Magnan**  
Mercer Island Police Department

## VICE CHAIR

**Captain James Britt**  
Seattle Police Department

## MEMBERS

### Andrew Bauck

Executive Analyst  
KC Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget

### Geoffrey Detweiler

Fiscal & Policy Analyst  
City of Seattle

### Carrie Jones

Budget Supervisor  
Seattle Police Department

### Chief Kyle Kolling

Clyde Hill Police Department

### Michael Leahy

Regional AFIS Manager  
King County Sheriff's Office

### Chief Shawn Ledford

King County Sheriff's Office

### Samantha Porter

Principal Legislative Analyst  
King County Council

### Dawn Quaale

Forensic Support Services Manager  
Seattle Police Department

### Major Mark Tarantino

Bellevue Police Department

### Chief Mike Harden

Lake Forest Park Police Department

### Chief Dan Yourkoski

Normandy Park Police Department

---

---

## AFIS MISSION

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



# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

King County's Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) is a county wide program that provides the staff and technology to support fingerprint identification services for all cities and unincorporated areas of King County. A regional approach allows for this enhanced service to be shared by all agencies.

## Objectives

- To quickly identify individuals, resolve identity related issues, and ensure criminal history records are accurately attributed and reported.
- To collect and identify crime scene related finger and palm prints to aid investigations and provide evidence in court.

## Benefits

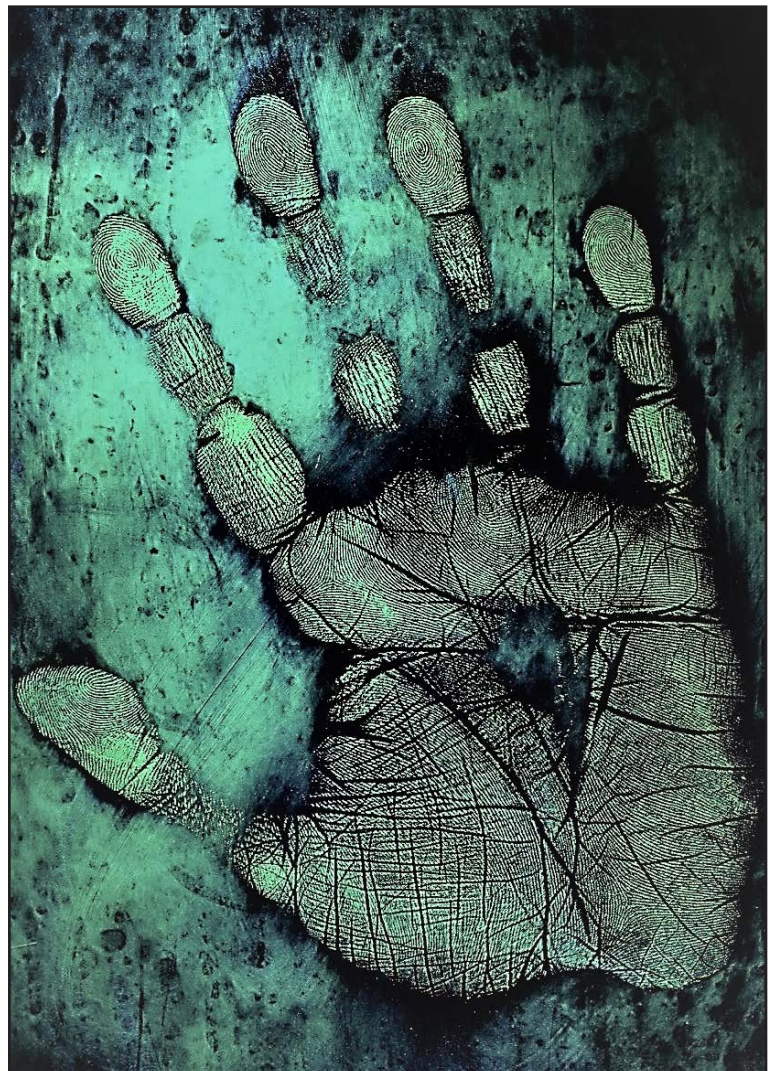
- Provides expert staff and up-to-date technology at an overall lower expense than if agencies funded their own units.
- Creates a high quality, local database of fingerprint information against which all local agency prints can be searched.
- Leads to faster completion time for cases and arrest identifications.

## Technology

- The AFIS database stores nearly 3 million records for matching to incoming and unidentified prints.
- 56 Livescan devices deployed throughout the region capture prints, photos, and demographics. The data collected is transmitted electronically to the local, state, and federal identification systems.
- 295 Mobile ID devices allow officers in the field to quickly identify people without the need to transport them to a secondary location.

## Services

- Collection of booking fingerprints, mug shots, and DNA
- Arrestee and applicant identification
- Criminal history reporting
- Crime scene and evidence processing
- Latent print examination
- Assistance with identity theft issues
- Identification of deceased and unknown individuals
- Technology management
- Customer support and training



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



Since 1986, the King County AFIS program has been funded by a voter-approved property tax levy. The current levy was approved in August 2018 and runs through the end of 2024.

Although law enforcement agencies are typically responsible for the costs associated with performing their own criminal identification functions, the investment in technology, staff, equipment, and other resources would be costly for any single jurisdiction to finance independently. This regional approach provides agencies throughout King County with core fingerprint services and technology, leaving local resources for other priorities.

In 2023, the AFIS levy rate was 2.681cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. This was approximately \$18.76 for the owner of a home valued at \$700,000.

The 2019-2024 levy was a status quo financial plan that assumed no major new investments. However, through conscientious financial management and cost reductions, the AFIS program has been able to complete significant capital projects. Staff were moved from the King County Courthouse to a more centralized location in Renton, the AFIS computer was converted to a modern cloud-based system with improved matching capability, and we're currently working to update the fingerprint capture devices deployed to agencies throughout King County.

Typically, the AFIS program would seek levy renewal during the final year of a levy period. However, the AFIS program has been able to extend funds from our current levy an additional year. No taxes will be collected for the AFIS program in 2025, and we will continue to operate on budgetary savings. We plan to put a new AFIS levy on the ballot in 2025 to fund the years 2026-2031.

## 2023 Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue	
Property Taxes	\$23,311,264
Investment Interest	\$1,888,045
Other / Misc.	\$3,856
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,203,165</b>
Expenditures	
Salaries & Benefits	\$10,049,963
City of Seattle*	\$4,239,424
Intragovernmental Overhead	\$3,392,771
Supplies & Services	\$1,060,160
Capital Equipment	\$67,047
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,809,365</b>

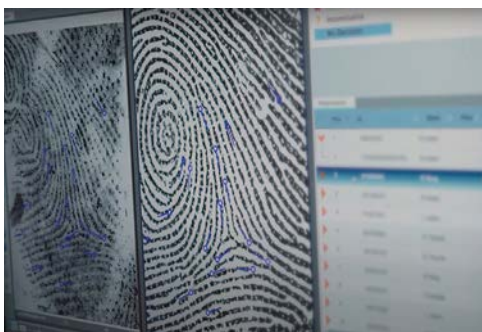
\*This number includes salaries, benefits, supplies, and training.

# AFIS TECHNOLOGY



## AFIS Database

The AFIS database contains nearly 3 million searchable records and is used to store and match prints collected from devices connected to our network. King County AFIS also maintains a connection to the fingerprint databases of Washington State Patrol, Western Identification Network, and the FBI. Prints not identified in our local database may be searched through these external databases. Prints recovered at crime scenes or on evidence can be searched through the database to determine who may have come into contact with a surface related to a criminal investigation. Unsolved crime scene prints are retained in the database and are continually searched against incoming records in hopes of providing resolution to older cases.



## Mobile Identification

Mobile Identification devices are handheld fingerprint scanners that allow officers in the field to quickly identify individuals without the need to transport them to a secondary location. Field identification enables officers to make critical decisions on whether to detain subjects. The prints are automatically searched through the King County AFIS database as well as the Washington State Patrol database and FBI's Repository for Individuals of Special Concern (RISC), with results returned directly to the officer in the field. In keeping with privacy laws, prints taken on the Mobile ID are not saved on the device or in the databases through which they are searched. 5,915 Mobile ID searches were performed in 2023.



## Livescan

56 livescan terminals are deployed throughout the county in police, correctional, and government facilities. These terminals electronically capture and transmit fingerprint and palm print images directly to the King County AFIS system. The prints are searched through the database and compared to prints on file. Records are then transmitted, along with any criminal or applicant information, to the Washington State Patrol. This process can now be completed in a matter of minutes compared to the days or weeks it used to take when using ink and paper. Levy funds supply the livescan terminals at no cost to the agencies. In 2023, our fleet of livescan terminals collected 49,424 sets of fingerprints.



# PROGRAM SERVICES



## Identification Section

Livescan terminals 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 bookings, license applications, or background checks.

King County AFIS provides Identification Technicians to take prints at the King County Correctional Facility, Maeleng Regional Justice Center, and the King County Youth and Family Services Center. Our Technicians also respond to area hospitals to print patients that are unable to identify themselves. By ensuring that the highest quality prints are taken we increase our ability to identify people and to potentially match them to prints recovered at crime scenes.

Our Tenprint Examiners compare incoming submissions to those in our existing database, and any discrepancies between the information being used and the information in the database is reported to the agency submitting the prints. This process ensures that identity is quickly determined, and criminal history and warrants are properly associated with the correct individuals.

Information Specialists research arrest information for inclusion on state and federal rap sheets, ensuring that the courts, law enforcement, and licensing agencies have access to up-to-date criminal history information. These records are relied upon for criminal investigations, applicant back grounding, and sentencing determinations.

Our identification section also assists with the identification of unknown deceased individuals and works with victims of identity theft to clear up criminal history that may have incorrectly become associated with them.

## 2023 Identification Section Stats

Criminal Bookings Performed by AFIS Staff: 16,419

Unknown Patient Cases: 107

Criminal Bookings Received: 31,561

Deceased Examinations: 855

Tenprint Records Searched: 49,424

Mobile ID Searches: 5,915

# PROGRAM SERVICES

## Forensic Section

Prints left after a surface is touched are known as *latent* prints because they are not typically visible without some form of physical or chemical processing.

King County AFIS Processing Technicians and Latent Print Examiners respond to crime scenes throughout King County to recover latent prints from items that may have been touched during the commission of a crime.

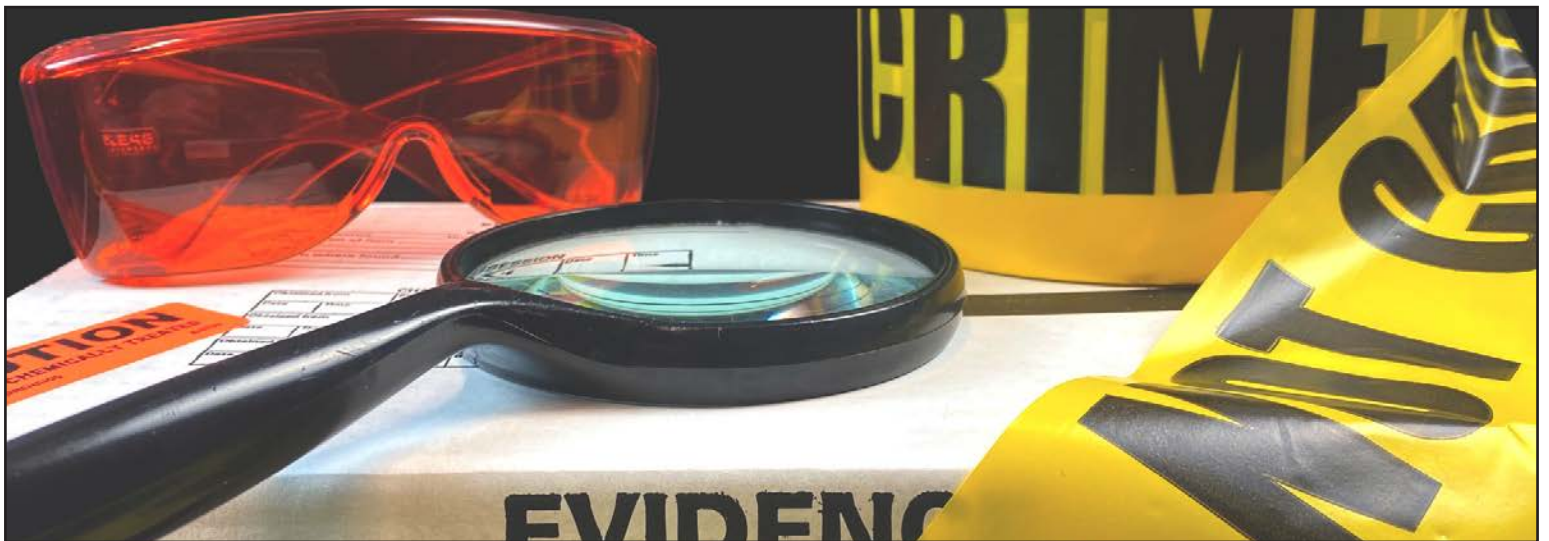
We also have a state-of-the-art processing lab where agencies can send their evidence to be processed. In a lab setting, examiners are able to utilize a wider range of processing techniques and equipment to develop and preserve the latent prints on an item.

Once developed and preserved, latent prints are compared to the prints of known subjects. Depending on the circumstances of the case, they may be manually compared to specific individuals or searched through the entire AFIS database. They may also be searched through the databases of Washington State Patrol, Western Identification Network (AK, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, WY), and FBI.

Unsolved latents can be stored in the AFIS computer and searched against all future known prints that are submitted. This potentially creates new leads in investigations that may have previously gone cold.

Upon conclusion of any work, comprehensive case reports are prepared by our Latent Administrative Unit and supplied to investigators.

The KCSO and SPD Photography Units provide specialized photo services for forensic and public relations purposes. The AFIS levy provides supplemental funding to these units in light of the volume of forensic photography work performed for the program.



## 2023 Forensic Section Stats

Evidence Items Processed: 15,654

Crime Scene Responses: 3,077

Latent Cases Worked: 6,237

DNA Samples Collected: 1,037





## Support, Training, and Community Involvement

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 service-related communication among stakeholders, and organize participation in community events.

As a regional and levy-based program, it's vital that information about the program is shared with the public. This is done through school science programs, festivals, community events, career conferences, and National Night Out events. AFIS staff share information about their job functions and why fingerprint identification is so important.

## Management & Technology

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



---

## Looking Ahead:

In 2024, the AFIS Program is working to update the technology that we deploy throughout the county. Our current fleet of Livescan and MobileID devices is reaching the end of its technological lifespan and we have begun the process of procuring the newest state-of-the-art technology. We will also start preparing for a renewal of our levy in 2025.

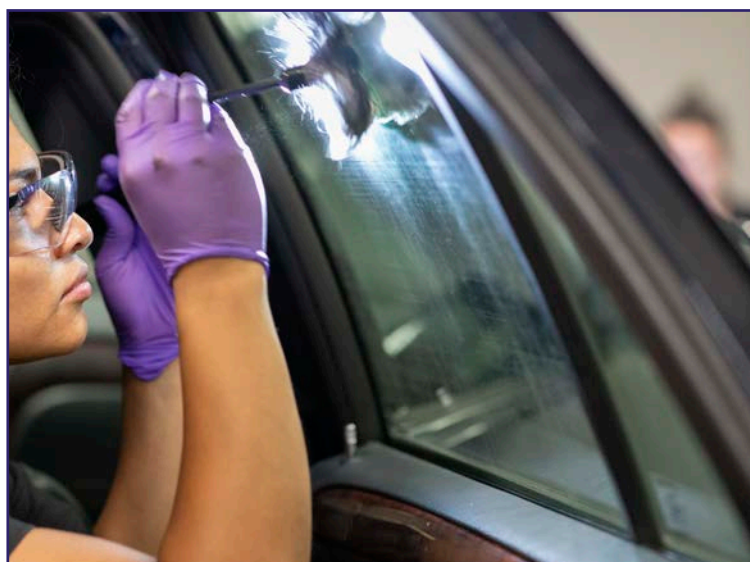
# NOTEABLE CASES

After carjacking a victim at gunpoint in Seattle, an unknown subject went on to rob and assault several other victims with a firearm. When intercepted by police, the subject pointed a gun at officers and fled the area. The vehicle was later recovered and processed for latent prints, as were several items of evidence found inside. A print from the rearview mirror was searched through the AFIS database, which resulted in an identification. The subject was compared to prints recovered from other items of evidence, resulting in additional identifications in other crimes. The subject was arrested and charges were filed.

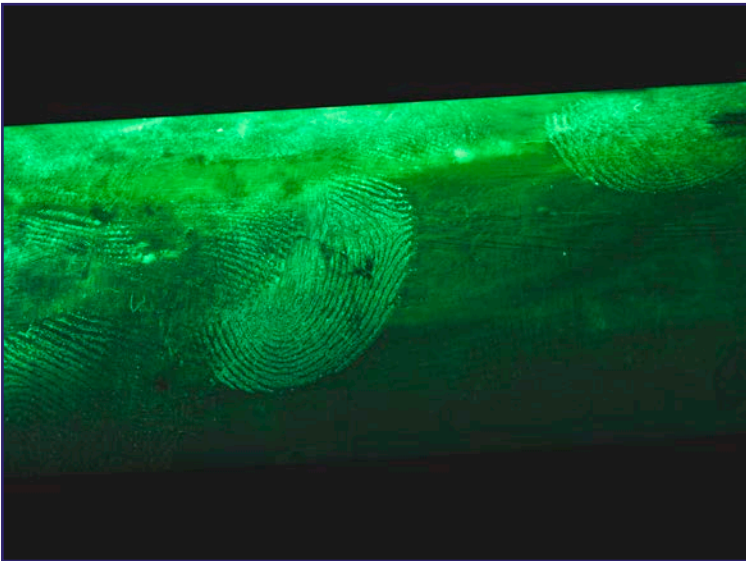


Detectives investigating a robbery noted that video showed a subject touching numerous surfaces at the scene. King County's latent unit responded and was able to recover prints from the exact locations seen in the video. Detectives had indications that the person was related to a series of robberies and burglaries in the area, and asked for expedited comparisons of the prints. Within an hour, investigators were given a name and were able to start focusing on that individual. Ten days later, the subject was taken into custody. Latents from three other cases were also compared and corroborated the individual's involvement in those cases.

Outside of a gas station in Seattle, multiple vehicles were involved in an altercation leading to a shooting. The driver of one vehicle sustained several gunshot wounds and ended up crashing their vehicle near the scene. Video surveillance was not useful in providing information about who may have been involved. Three vehicles, multiple guns, and assorted other items were submitted for latent processing. Searches through the King County, State, and Federal databases yielded twenty-three identifications to eleven different subjects, providing leads for investigators.

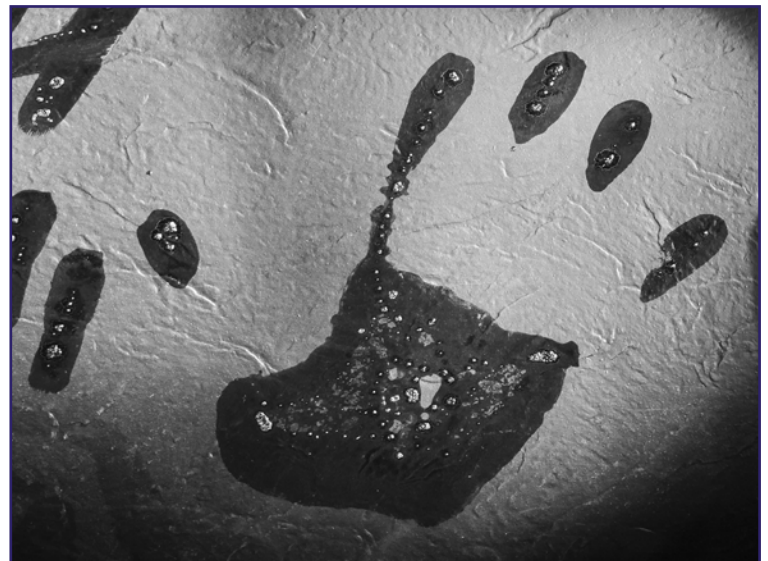


The Tenprint Unit was contacted by a King County Defense Attorney who believed his client was being detained on someone else's warrant. The name on the warrant was very similar to his client, but it was not an exact match. Fingerprints from the client were compared to fingerprints associated with the warrant and it was determined that the warrant did not belong to the person who had been in custody for seven days. An order was sent to the court and the wrongly detained individual was released from custody.



A victim was left bleeding in a parking lot with a head wound after an unknown subject bet him with his own crutch. The subject had been confronted about shoplifting from a store immediately before the assault; however, the store could not recover surveillance video. The crutch was recovered and submitted to the Seattle Latent Print Unit for processing. Prints were recovered and run through the County and State AFIS databases, resulting in two latent prints being identified to a previously unknown man. The case was referred to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

The Seattle Latent Unit responded to an arson scene on Lake Union involving 50 boats. A boat believed to have been occupied by a potential subject was processed, but no prints were recovered. The same day, a commercial warehouse in the same area was burglarized. Prints from the burglary, including a suspected bloody print on a wall, were searched through the King County database, leading to the identification of a subject. Detectives were able to connect the person identified in the burglary to additional forensic evidence from the arson. A trial is pending.





# King County

KING COUNTY REGIONAL



IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM

[www.kingcounty.gov/AFIS](http://www.kingcounty.gov/AFIS)

---

Place your own prints in the white box and compare them to the pattern types below.

