



January 10, 2022

The Honorable Lina Hidalgo and
Members of Commissioners Court
1001 Preston, Suite 938
Houston, Texas 77002

Re: HCIFS NAME Accreditation

Dear Members of Commissioners Court:

The Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences (HCIFS) is pleased to announce that the Medical Examiner Service has been granted re-accreditation for a period of four years by the National Association of Medical Examiners. This achievement marks the ongoing commitment of the HCIFS to comply with standards for a quality medicolegal death investigation system. Seventy-nine medical examiner and coroner offices in the U.S. are currently accredited by NAME, and we are one of nine medical examiner operations in Texas to have obtained this accreditation.

During the accreditation application process, Dr. Barbara Wolf, Chair of the NAME Inspection and Accreditation Committee, conducted an on-site visit of HCIFS to audit our operations, protocols, and case records against 350 established standards, and to interview several of our stakeholders. In her report, Dr. Wolf concluded that HCIFS meets the accreditation standards and stated that, "The Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences functions at a superior professional level in all phases of its operation... This Institute as a whole is a stellar example of a modern and professional medicolegal death investigation system in a large city."

We wish to thank Commissioners Court for the support that has allowed the HCIFS to earn this type of recognition and to continue our commitment to providing quality service to our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luis A. Sanchez".

Luis A. Sanchez, M.D.
Executive Director & Chief Medical Examiner

LAS/lw