



CITIZENS CRIME COMMISSION

OF NEW YORK CITY

RICHARD M. ABORN, PRESIDENT

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Contact: Ashley Cannon, 212.608.4700 or cannon@caasny.com

ABORN APPLAUDS SENATE ACTION TO EXPAND THE DNA DATABANK

Calls on Assembly to Follow Suit

NEW YORK-In response to the Senate introducing S.5560, a bill to expand New York's DNA Databank to include all crimes upon conviction, Richard M. Aborn, President of the Citizens Crime Commission of New York City issued the following statement:

“It's time for the law to catch up with technology. DNA is the 21st century fingerprint: not collecting it for all crimes would be like failing to fingerprint all convicted criminals. Absurd. Victims deserve justice and law enforcement needs this vital resource now. Let's not waste another year while thousands of cases remain unsolved. I applaud the Senate's action on this issue, and urge the Assembly to follow suit.”

The bill is expected to pass the Senate today.

The Crime Commission has long championed this issue together with a coalition of advocates, meeting with lawmakers and law enforcement alike. Aborn recently editorialized on the issue in the *New York Post*: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/needless_delays_for_ny_justice_gcOw8KGGNeC93aSXSgWRPJ

In 2006, Albany passed legislation to expand the DNA databank to include *some* misdemeanors in addition to all felonies. However, according to the Division of Criminal Justice Services, in 2009 alone, more than 7,500 violent offenders were arrested in New York who had at least one prior conviction not covered by the current DNA law. In other words, 18 percent of those arrested for violent crimes had been convicted of at least one prior crime for which no DNA was taken.

The results have been overwhelming, with 1,714 new DNA matches from misdemeanor convictions. Of the new matches, 49 percent came from samples collected from individuals convicted of petit larceny, a crime previously not included. As a result, police have been able to connect these criminals to more violent crimes: 42 percent to burglary and 23 percent to sexual assault.

The Citizens Crime Commission of New York City is an independent nonprofit organization working to make criminal justice and public safety policies and practices

Citizens Crime Commission of New York City, Inc., 335 Madison Avenue, 9th Floor, New York, NY 10017

p: 212.608.4700 • f: 212.350.2701 • e: info@nycrimecommission.org

www.nycrimecommission.org

more effective through innovation, research, and education. In the last three decades, the Crime Commission has been a leader on key issues such as: increasing the size of the NYPD, expanding the use of DNA evidence in crime fighting, creating innovations that reduce juvenile crime, developing interventions against gun violence and illegal gun crime, and highlighting the changing nature of the threat of terrorism.

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