

Draft Minutes
Meeting of the Firearms & Toolmarks Subcommittee
of the Scientific Advisory Committee
Department of Forensic Science
October 6, 2026
All-Virtual Meeting

Subcommittee Members Present

William E. Demuth, II, *Chair*

Erin P. Forry

Kenneth B. Zercie

Staff Members Present

Kate Adolf, Western Latent Prints & Impressions Section Supervisor, Acting Western Laboratory Director

David A. Barron, PhD, Deputy Director

Lauren Claytor, Central Firearms & Toolmarks Group Supervisor

Samantha Glass, Physical Evidence Program Manager

Amy C. Jenkins, Chief Deputy Director

David Koppenhaver, Eastern Laboratory Director

Ryan Labor, Northern Controlled Substances Group Supervisor, Acting Northern Laboratory Director

Alka B. Lohmann, Director

Browyn McMaster, Northern Firearms & Toolmarks Forensic Scientist Senior

David Siecker, Communications and Executive Support Specialist

Farryl Sorokin, Secretary to the Scientific Advisory Committee

Theresa Staropoli, Director of Technical Services

William Wittenbrook, Department Counsel

Call to Order by Subcommittee Chair

After verifying that a quorum of the Firearms & Toolmarks Subcommittee (“Subcommittee”) was present, Chair Demuth called the meeting of the Subcommittee to order at 8:32 a.m. He reminded the members to speak clearly and to keep their cameras on throughout the meeting.

Adoption of Agenda

Chair Demuth advised that the first order of business was the adoption of the draft agenda for the meeting and noted that the agenda was previously shared with the Subcommittee members by Ms. Sorokin. He then asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Ms. Forry made a motion to adopt the agenda, which was seconded and adopted by unanimous vote of the Subcommittee.

Update on the Review and Status of Corrective Actions

Ms. Glass provided an update on the *Review and Status of Corrective Actions* relating to the Firearms & Toolmarks Section in the Western Laboratory. Pursuant to the Subcommittee's recommendation, DFS issued a disclosure to members of the Virginia criminal defense bar on May 5, 2026, which was distributed through the Virginia Indigent Defense Commission (IDC), the Virginia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the Criminal Law section of the Virginia State Bar. DFS staff members had subsequently met with management staff of IDC to discuss the notification and provide additional information.

Ms. Glass also reported that, as of this date, DFS has submitted 105 cases to the external reviewer. DFS has received 89 reviews from that provider as of earlier this week. Ms. Glass discussed the observations and comments received from the external reviewer. DFS has reworked 4 cases based on the recommendation of the external reviewer. Ms. Glass discussed the reexamination results for those 4 cases with the Subcommittee members. Cases have been either reviewed or reexamined by DFS at the request of the parties, including law enforcement, Commonwealth's Attorneys, defense attorneys, and defendants.

Questions were raised about the timeline for completion of the review and whether the review will extend beyond the Western Laboratory examiners. These questions were addressed.

Discussion of the Validation Plan for the Quantum 3d Microscope

In advance of the meeting, the members of the Subcommittee were provided with the Validation Plan for the Quantum 3D Microscope. Ms. Forry commended the Validation Plan for incorporating all requirements and standards and asked how the Quantum 3D Microscope differs from Cadre, which was addressed. A further question regarding staff training on the use of the instrument was addressed.

Once the discussion concluded, Chair Demuth asked if there were any edits or additions recommended by the Subcommittee. No member had any suggested edits or editions. Chair Demuth called for a motion to close the review of the Validation Plan. Mr. Zercie made a motion to close the Subcommittee's review, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Subcommittee.

Public Comment

An opportunity for public comment was provided. No comments were made.

Adjournment

Chairman Demuth asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Forry made a motion that the meeting be adjourned, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 a.m.