



Retired HPD Assistant Chief, Attorney Join HFSC Board

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner has appointed a retired assistant chief with the Houston Police Department and a prominent litigator to the Houston Forensic Science Center Board of Directors.

Mary Lentschke retired in 2016 after a 33-year career with HPD. As Ms. Lentschke rose through the ranks, she served in the Crime Scene Unit, Gang Unit and managed the Special Victims Divisions. In that role, she joined a multi-disciplinary team that using a combination of federal grants and city dollars eliminated a backlog of more than 6,600 rape kits dating back to the 1980s and researched ways to prevent a similar backlog from rebuilding. Ms. Lentschke worked closely with the Houston Forensic Science Center to complete that project.

Ms. Lentschke is a graduate of Sam Houston State University and the FBI National Academy.

Francisco G. Medina owns a successful law firm and has been a trial and public finance lawyer for more than 30 years. Mr. Medina is a former prosecutor with the Harris County District Attorney's Office, and has tried more than 50 jury trials in civil and criminal courts on the state and federal level. Mr. Medina is also a former member of the Houston Community College Board of Trustees. Mr. Medina received a political science degree from the University of Houston, and graduated from the University of Texas School of Law.

Mayor Turner also reappointed Anthony Graves and Dr. Robert McPherson to the HFSC board. Mr. Graves spent more than a decade on death row after being wrongfully

convicted of six murders he did not commit. Dr. McPherson is a professor and dean in the University of Houston's College of Education.

"The knowledge, experience and perspective that Ms. Lentschke and Mr. Medina bring to the HFSC Board of Directors will be hugely beneficial in the coming years as we move forward on this important journey," said Nicole Casarez, the board's chairwoman.

HFSC is a local government corporation that provides forensic services to the City of Houston and other local agencies. HFSC is overseen by a Board of Directors appointed by the Mayor of Houston and confirmed by the Houston City Council. Its management structure is designed to be responsive to a 2009 recommendation by the National Academy of Sciences that called for crime laboratories to be independent of law enforcement and prosecutorial branches of government.

HFSC operates in seven forensic disciplines.

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