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2020 Drug Testing Compliance Report

On March 20, 2018, the Attorney General issued Directive 2018-2 (attached hereto) to ensure that all law enforcement agencies are employing random drug testing. An officer's alertness and ability to make rational decisions unaffected by illegal drug use is of the utmost importance for public safety and trust. It should be noted that prior to this directive, all law enforcement agencies in Essex County already had random drug testing procedures in place. This Directive, however, ensures that drug testing of police officers is conducted in a consistent manner throughout the State.

All law enforcement agencies in Essex County have either adopted the Attorney General's Drug Testing Directive (2018-2) or incorporated the directive into their existing drug testing policy.

Since the time that the Directive took effect, Essex County law enforcement agencies notified the Essex County Prosecutor's Office when the required tests were performed. Results were reported even when they were all negative. When they were positive, the agency reported whether the substance at issue was prescribed. Otherwise, the department also advised regarding any disciplinary action.

Finally, each agency's policy has been posted on their respective websites as required under the Directive, and reporting requirements have been satisfied for 2020.