Texas Forensic Science Commission Minutes from August 13, 2015 Powell Investigative Panel Meeting in Austin, Texas

The Texas Forensic Science Commission's Powell Investigative Panel met at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 13, 2015, at the Omni Austin Southpark, 4140 Governor's Row, Austin, Texas 78744.

Members of the Commission were present as follows:

Members Present: Barnard, Kessler, Lerma, Alpert

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Lynn Garcia, FSC General Counsel

Leigh Tomlin, Commission Coordinator

Inmate George R. Powell filed this complaint, arguing the digital video testimony and report used at his trial was unreliable.

Discuss status of review and analysis by Forensic Video Solutions of height determination based on forensic video analysis, including best practices and recommendations for standards in the discipline.

Panel Chairman Barnard led a discussion to update panel members on the status of the complaint. Barnard explained there is not yet a written report from the Commission's expert, Mr. Grant Fredericks, but a final report is forthcoming. Members expect the expert's report to be issued by the end of August.

Discuss status of peer review of PhotoModeler software analysis by State's expert.

Members discussed whether the expert's application and use of the PhotoModeler software was appropriate. Members are awaiting feedback from a peer reviewer on this issue.

Discuss Attorney General Opinion Request

Members did not address this agenda item.

Discuss recommendations for next steps for full Commission deliberation.

Member will wait for an official report from the expert before making any recommendation to the full Commission related to the complaint.

Public comment.

There were no public comments.

Adjourn.