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To:     NYC Chief Medical Examiner

District Attorney Offices – Bronx County, Kings County, New York County, Richmond County, and Queens County

Family Court Division, NYC Law Department

NYC Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor

Forensic Investigation Division, NYPD

U.S. Attorneys' Offices – Southern District of New York and Eastern District of New York

NYC Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice

Date:   August 12, 2022

RE:     Suitability of all mixed DNA profiles to be compared to the DNA of know individuals

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This memo serves to clarify the NYC Office of Chief Medical Examiner Forensic DNA Reports regarding the suitability of minor contributors to be compared to the DNA of known individuals. STRMix is a fully-continuous Probabilistic Genotyping Software that combines biological modeling with mathematical processes to (1) interpret and attempt to deconvolute DNA profiles in the presence or absence of conditioned samples, and (2) compare suspect(s) and/or informative reference sample(s) (comparison samples) to crime scene evidence samples and provide statistical weight in the form of a likelihood ratio.

The Department of Forensic Biology began using STRmix in January 2017. With STRmix, DNA results that are determined to be interpretable are suitable for comparison in their entirety. Accordingly, when there is a major contributor determined in a mixed DNA sample, all major and minor contributors in the mixture are suitable for comparison. The OCME Department of Forensic Biology has the capability to compare a suspect and/or informative reference sample to an entire mixture and can provide statistical weight in the form of a likelihood ratio.