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On January 10, 2019, several news outlets reported that the City of Hyattsville Police Department destroyed sexual assault kits and was not in compliance with Maryland Code, Criminal Procedure § 11-926. The reports state that the City of Hyattsville Police Department destroyed ten (10) Sexual Assault Kits in the **last two years**. This is inaccurate. Maryland Code Criminal Procedure § 11-926 became effective on October 1, 2017 and requires sexual assault kits to be maintained for 20 years. Prior to that, the Department's standard practice was to destroy kits after an investigation was concluded and specific conditions were met. We conducted an audit of the ten (10) kits and determined the following:

Six (6) of the ten (10) kits in question were destroyed between March 2014 and August 2017, in accordance with the Department's standard operating procedures and state law in effect at that time.

Four (4) kits were destroyed on March 29, 2018. Of those four (4) kits, we can confirm that three (3) of the kits were analyzed prior to destruction. The fourth kit was obtained from an incident occurring in 2005 and the City of Hyattsville Police Department no longer has access to data to confirm the action(s) taken prior to destruction.

We can, however, confirm that our practice is and has been to dispose of evidence in accordance with applicable policy and state law. We are committed to ensuring that we uphold this standard and will continue to maintain the highest degree of integrity when managing evidence, particularly in incidents as sensitive as these.

