



# KING COUNTY REGIONAL Automated Fingerprint Identification System



Annual Report  
2014

# MESSAGE FROM THE AAC CHAIR



**Penny Bartley**  
SCORE Director  
AFIS Advisory Committee Chair

On behalf of the AFIS Advisory Committee, it is my pleasure to introduce the King County Regional AFIS Program's 2014 annual report. AFIS is a great example of cost-effective regionalized service. It provides exceptional finger and palm print identification to all police departments and many jails throughout the county. Validations of the program's success are shared throughout this report in stories and quotes.

The AFIS Program continuously strives to provide quality service and improvement as demonstrated through its achievements. During this last year the acceptance testing for the handheld fingerprint scanners was a success with Mobile ID devices being rolled out to law enforcement agencies throughout King County with more being deployed in 2015. These devices are helping officers identify subjects who may be using false names, often to avoid arrest.

Work progresses towards a new processing lab including completion of a needs assessment and several visits to potential sites. AFIS also continues to make internal improvements to staffing and operational models in order to serve customers more efficiently and achieve operational excellence.

Thank you to the talented people working hard every day to make these accomplishments possible. I am confident in the work the AFIS Program provides and believe it is well positioned to thrive in the years ahead. Also, I would like to extend the Committee's sincere gratitude to the law enforcement agencies within King County that continue to take part in this regional program.

I welcome you to review this annual report and learn more about the program's goals and successes. It is also available online at [www.kingcounty.gov/afis](http://www.kingcounty.gov/afis).

## Program Mission

*The Regional AFIS Program promotes public safety and contributes to crime reduction by providing expert fingerprint identification services to criminal justice agencies throughout King County.*



*The AFIS Program would like to thank the individuals who contributed to this report, including program staff, the AFIS Advisory Committee, and those who shared their experiences and success stories.*

### Chair

Penny Bartley  
SCORE Director

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Seattle Police Department

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*A special thanks to our outgoing members Paul Ayers, Don Berard, Karim Miller, and Doug Palmer.*

AFIS Advisory Committee

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# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

## Operations

King County's Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) is a levy-funded, countywide program that provides the staff and technology to support criminal fingerprint identification services for all 39 cities and unincorporated areas. The AFIS Program aids in crime-solving efforts and contributes to safer communities. The program offers support to regional task forces, auto theft and burglary initiatives, and investigations of illegal drug operations.

In 2014, progress was made towards replacing the King County processing lab and implementing Mobile ID as well as preparing for replacement of Livescan fingerprint capture devices reaching end-of-life. In 2015, progress will continue on:

- Distributing Mobile ID technology to law enforcement agencies throughout the county providing officers with shorter response time for identification and increased mobility.
- Selecting a site for the new processing lab, which will provide added work space and safety improvements.
- Upgrading technology such as new Livescans and incorporating photo storage into the AFIS database.
- Streamlining operations to improve processes, reduce cost, and increase value.

### Primary Purposes of the AFIS Program:

- 1 To quickly identify arrested individuals, preventing the wrongful release of those using false names.
- 2 To identify crime scene fingerprints and palmprints that aid in investigations and to provide evidence in court.

## Finances

Under state law, each local police agency is responsible for arrest identification; however, biometric technology is an expensive investment. Individual police agencies typically can't absorb these expenses on their own so in 1986, the voters of King County approved a property tax levy for the purchase of a shared regional AFIS. The AFIS levy has since been renewed by voters five times, most recently in November 2012. This regional approach enhances the limited criminal identification services previously handled by individual police agencies.

The levy provides funding for 128 employees between King County and the Seattle Police Department (SPD). This number includes staff that support the following functions: program administration, project management, forensic science, and information technology. The levy also funds fingerprint equipment and technology to support efficient identification services.

The current six-year levy runs from 2013-2018 with a starting property tax rate of \$0.0592<sup>1</sup> per \$1,000 of assessed value in 2013. The total amount collected may increase between one and three percent per year; in 2014

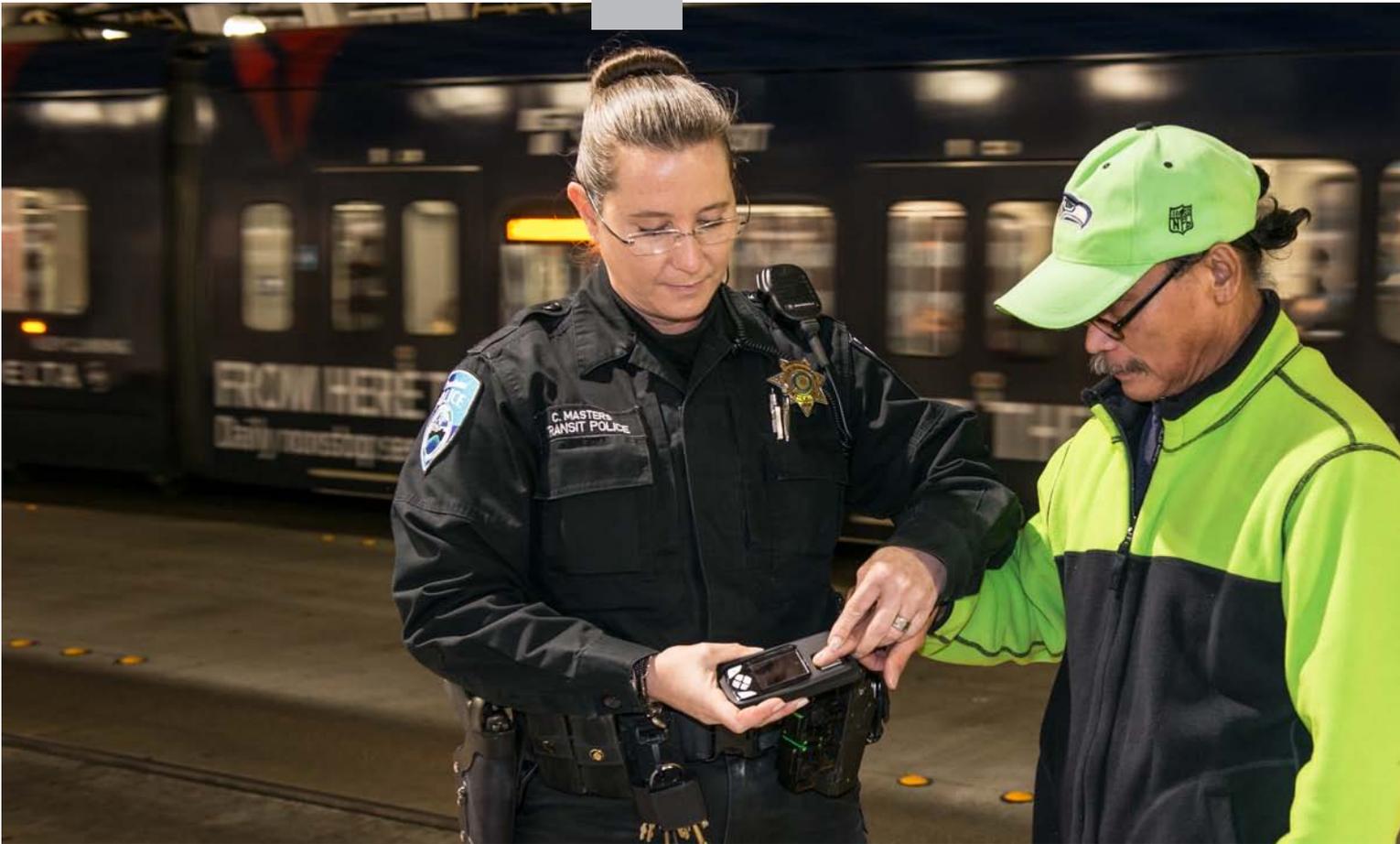
the tax rate decreased to \$0.05588 per \$1,000 of assessed value, or \$19.56 for a home valued at \$350,000.

In 2014, the levy funded implementation of a Mobile ID program, which includes 250 devices. The 2015/2016 AFIS budget includes \$800,000 to replace Livescan devices used by local police agencies. Through the remaining life of the levy the financial plan includes \$1 million reserved for the purchase of additional fingerprint devices and \$10.6 million towards a new processing lab.

2014 Revenue	
Property (Levy) Taxes	\$18,851,582
Investment Interest	\$75,230
Other <i>(e.g. excise tax and timber sales)</i>	\$101,605
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19,028,417</b>
2014 Expenses	
Salaries & Benefits	\$9,434,199
City of Seattle	\$3,889,557
Intergovernmental Overhead	\$2,176,869
Supplies & Services	\$739,885
Capital Equipment	\$91,488
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,331,998</b>

<sup>1</sup>The 2013 AFIS Annual Report stated the 2013 levy rate in error as \$0.0556 per \$1,000.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



## Mobile Identification

Mobile ID consists of handheld fingerprint capture devices paired with software that gives officers the ability to search two fingerprints against the AFIS database and receive results within minutes. The process allows the officer to quickly confirm a person's identity and make critical decisions, such as whether to detain or release the subject. This promotes public safety by increasing the amount of time the officer is on the street.

In 2014, a contract was signed with the vendor, MorphoTrak, and 250 Mobile ID devices were purchased. A 60-day acceptance test period was successfully completed in October involving 13 agencies using 32 devices, resulting in 556 submissions.

Mobile ID is now being rolled out and training provided to King County law enforcement agencies that sign an interlocal agency agreement that outlines the use of the devices and actions required by both parties.

Currently, the prints are searched through King County's AFIS and work is in progress to configure the system to submit transactions to the Western Identification Network and federal Repository for Individuals of Special Concern (RISC). The devices do not save data; fingerprints are searched against prints on file and not stored in the database.

“Thank you for your efforts in an outstanding program and subsequent hardware. In my almost 30 years of law enforcement experience, this has been one of the most valuable tools to come out in some time.”

**Officer Scott Parker**  
**Federal Way Police Department**

## Identity Thief Revealed

An officer made a traffic stop where the driver claimed not to have her license. She gave the name and identifying information of an identity theft victim. A check of her fingerprints revealed multiple felony warrants for her arrest, some for identity theft related crimes. She was also in possession of multiple stolen credit cards. She was wanted as a known mailbox thief who specifically stole credit cards and checkbooks.



Identity theft is a huge concern today. The ability to make a quick, positive identification in the field is tremendously helpful for law enforcement. The Mobile ID device helps prevent identity theft and ensures that officers can catch identity thieves who would use victim information while committing traffic violations or even crimes. It also helps officers to be much more efficient when contacting traffic violators who may have forgotten their licenses at home. Rather than spend a prolonged amount of time trying to positively identify someone by searching police records, an officer can verify identity through fingerprints in minutes. Since the Mobile ID device does not collect or add fingerprints to any database, but only checks them against existing fingerprint files, it is easy for officers to explain how the device functions for anyone who might have a privacy concern about its use.

**Officer J. Bava**  
Kent Police Department



## Card Skimming Case Solved

The U.S. Secret Service Electronic Crimes Task Force was investigating a case where an illegal card skimmer was discovered on an ATM. Examiners were able to recover a fingerprint from the skimmer and provide a possible suspect name. During the investigation, another suspect name came up and photos of the two suspects looked similar. Law enforcement went to the new suspect's residence. The person volunteered to have his fingerprints scanned with a Mobile ID device to confirm his identity. The results indicated that the two suspects were in fact the same individual, confirming his print was the one recovered from the card skimmer.

## Car Thief Identified

A suspect was in possession of a stolen vehicle, did not cooperate with officers and would not provide his name or any information. An officer with a Mobile ID device printed the handcuffed subject and identified him, which saved officers hours of time.

## Missing Juvenile Apprehended

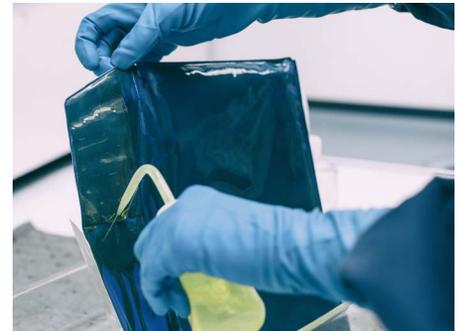
A suspect was apprehended for robbery. The suspect gave the patrol officer a false name. The officer used a Mobile ID device and the true identity came back as a missing juvenile with a no bail felony warrant. The juvenile was subsequently taken to the Youth Services Center.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## King County Processing Lab

Work progressed on the planning of the new King County processing laboratory. A needs assessment was completed which determined the technical, mechanical, HVAC, electrical, lighting, fiber optics, and computer networking requirements of the new lab.

Several King County and Seattle site visits were completed and a real estate broker was retained to find additional sites to assess. Once all the options are assessed and a site is chosen, a request for proposal for building design and construction will be initiated. The site is anticipated to be chosen in 2015.

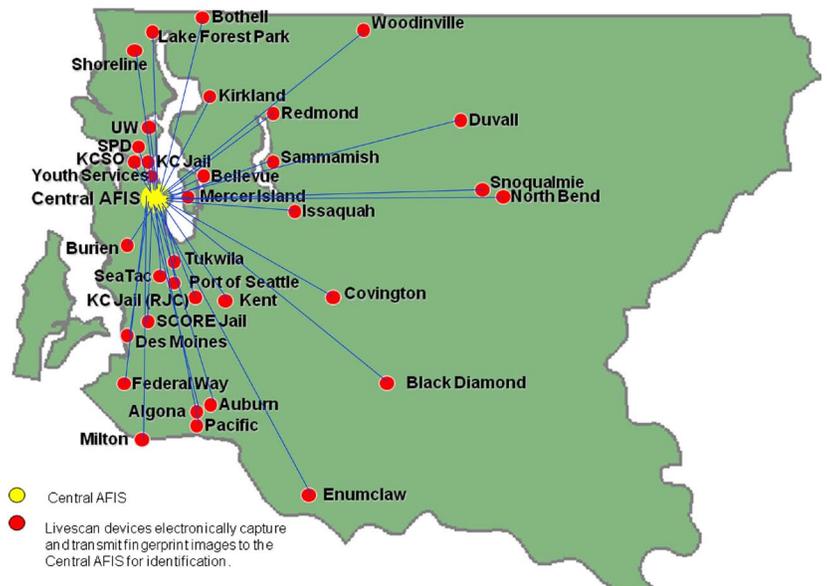


## Livescans

Livescan devices electronically capture and transmit fingerprint images to the central AFIS database for identification. The information is immediately available for search in the local AFIS database and for transmittal to the state and federal identification systems. Livescans provide an important function to the program and are located throughout the county as shown in the map to the right.

A request for vendor proposals to replace end-of-life Livescan devices was published at the end of November. The new devices will provide greater software flexibility and incorporate additional biometrics, such as mugshots and tattoos, with the arrest record. Proposals will be evaluated, a vendor selected, and a contract negotiated in early 2015.

## AFIS Connections (Livescan) in Your Area



**82,816**  
Livescan records searched through AFIS

## Digital Image Management System (DIMS)

In 2014, the King County Latent Unit began using a DIMS, which is a system that replaces CDs for the storage of digital crime scene fingerprint images. Use of a DIMS has been a great improvement compared to the old process and has saved time and money over the last year.

# PROGRAM SERVICES

“Your staff never fails to make my work easier and far more effective for all of us.”

**Detective Robin Fry**  
SeaTac Police Department

## Program & Project Management

Program management oversees daily operations, acquisitions, budget, and the use and maintenance of fingerprint technology throughout the county. The project management team ensures compliance with state and national industry standards, administers the completion of program initiatives, and responds to issues in the ever-changing biometric and forensic disciplines.



## Customer Support & Training

The AFIS Program provides technical instruction and helpdesk support for all its users in King County. Staff organize fingerprint related training for officers and examiners, facilitate communication among stakeholders throughout the county, and coordinate community events.



## Photography

The King County Sheriff's Office and SPD Photo Laboratories provide digital and film photography as well as processing and print production for forensic, crime scene, and public relation purposes. They also train officers and examiners on crime scene and evidence photography. Although the AFIS levy does not fund these units, it provides supplemental funding due to the volume of latent photography work performed for the AFIS Program.



## Community Involvement

AFIS employees enjoy the opportunity to share program information with the public and participate in citizens' academies and National Night Out events as well as present at schools.

### Student Science Programs

*"This is the second year AFIS joined us, and we received positive feedback regarding the AFIS exhibit and the interaction these professionals had with our students and families. They shared lots of great information, and interacted easily with our students and their families."*

**Catherine Chandler**  
Park Orchard PTSA, Kent

### National Night Out and Citizens' Academies

- Issaquah
- Maple Valley
- Regional 911
- Renton
- Sammamish
- Seattle
- SeaTac

### Science Fair Project

On their own time, two Latent Print Examiners helped three high school students with their science fair project to redesign an AFIS based on scars. The students won their local competition and moved up to the next level. The students took 1st place at state and won the Wolfram Alpha Mathematica Award. Each student received a \$20,000 annual scholarship for four years. The students said they couldn't have made it without the inspiration and support from the examiners.

# PROGRAM SERVICES

## Arrest Identification

At correctional facilities and police agencies, Livescan devices are used to electronically capture and transmit fingerprint images to the AFIS database for identification by examiners 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Anyone found to be using a false name is reported to the arresting officer or detention facility immediately. This process ensures that inmates are positively identified prior to release from custody, preventing individuals from evading warrants and hiding criminal records, or being held wrongfully for others' warrants.

AFIS staff provide arrest information to update state and federal rapsheets. Arrest data is reported quickly and accurately so that courts, law enforcement, and licensing agencies

have access to the most current criminal history record information possible. These records are used for criminal and background investigations, warrant checks, and sentencing determinations.

AFIS staff who work in King County correctional facilities also capture booking photos, collect DNA samples, and create photo montages ("line-ups"), which detectives use to help victims identify suspects. Additional services provided by AFIS staff include working with victims of identity theft, identifying deceased individuals for the Medical Examiner's Office, identifying injured or unconscious hospital patients, and assisting with sex offender registrations.



**734**  
Individuals  
identified as  
giving false names  
upon arrest

**51** of these  
individuals  
had no-bail  
warrants

**\$2.14 million**  
in warrants

## Oso Mud Slide Assistance

A Tenprint Examiner helped to identify one of the Oso mud slide victims. The King County Medical Examiner's Office provided a possible name and a set of applicant prints from Alaska. The examiner compared the post-mortem print and confirmed the identity.



# IDENTIFICATION



## Bank Fraud Suspect Convicted

In 2012, a man was part of a crew that opened new bank accounts and deposited bad checks to inflate the balance. They quickly withdrew cash before the banks learned the deposits were worthless. In an 18-day period in Oregon and Washington, the man went to 30 different bank branches. During this time frame, the suspect was arrested at a bank in Washington. At the arrest, his prints were submitted to AFIS as a question of identity and a Tenprint Examiner provided a name to the arresting agency. In June 2014, the examiner testified in court on the identification. The jury found the suspect guilty on 48 counts (Identity Theft, Felony Computer Crime, Theft Second Degree).

## 25-Year Fugitive Identified

The Social Security Administration sent the Tenprint Unit a thumb print from a California driver's license. They knew the person pictured on the license was a John Doe, since the true person had been dead for 25 years. An examiner sent the print to the FBI, resulting in a hit on a man wanted for vehicular homicide. In January 2014, the man was arrested at his home in Bremerton. He had been living under the identity of a deceased individual for 25 years to evade arrest on the felony warrant for vehicular homicide and to fraudulently obtain social security benefits.

## Homicide Linked to Stolen Gun

In 2010, a gun was stolen from a home in Federal Way and later used to shoot a person in Kent. An Identification Technician and Tenprint Examiner processed the burglary scene. AFIS staff also made an identification and testified in court. The suspect was found guilty of Murder in the First Degree, Theft of a Firearm and Possession of a Stolen Firearm. In 2014, he was sentenced to 38 years.

# ARREST ID



# PROGRAM SERVICES

## Crime Scene Identification

Prints recovered from crime scenes are known as latent prints. Examiners use various techniques to reveal prints left on evidence to identify potential suspects. When there are no known suspects, latent prints are searched against millions of prints in the AFIS database. AFIS produces a list of potential matches based on ridge detail within the print. Examiners then compare the latent prints to prints on file to determine who left the prints at the crime scene. Examiners commonly testify in court regarding the conclusions they reach. They also respond to major crime scenes to collect latent prints.

Related functions include the intake and return of crime scene evidence, case file retention and dissemination, statistical data tracking, and providing reports to law enforcement.

The Program not only provides AFIS workstations to King County and SPD, but also to the Bellevue Police Department for use by its Latent Print Examiners.



**6,381**  
Crime scene fingerprints identified

“After my home was burglarized, two Latent Print Examiners responded to process the scene. They were very professional and thorough. They treated the scene like it was not just some ordinary crime scene and their professionalism and attitude provided an intangible gift of lightening the severity of the event. I have nothing but good things to say about King County Regional AFIS.”

**Brian Lull**  
SeaTac Citizen

**Unsolved homicide cases searched through the FBI's new biometric database resulted in 34% of the cases having new suspects and 158 new hits to 113 new individuals.**

**1,347**  
Crime scene palmprints identified



The Seattle Police Department's Latent Print Unit achieved laboratory accreditation through Forensic Quality Services in 2014.



## Series of Bank Robberies Solved

In September 2014, investigators were working on solving a series of bank robberies in Des Moines, Renton, and Covington. Solving this crime spree was paramount to public safety since the bank robber threatened to “shoot his way out” of one situation. After the robber’s face was photographed in the Covington bank, Des Moines PD officers had a possible suspect; however, they had no tangible evidence to tie him to the crimes. A King County Sheriff’s Office detective asked Latent Print Examiners to process a recovered car that was stolen from a park and ride, and used as the getaway vehicle. Although the vehicle appeared to have been intentionally cleaned to destroy any evidence, examiners developed and identified two latent fingerprints belonging to the suspect. In November 2014, the suspect was interviewed by investigators and after being confronted with the photographic and fingerprint evidence, the suspect confessed that he had committed all of the bank robberies.

## Burglary Suspect Arrested

### Same Day as Crime

In October 2014, examiners processed a residential burglary in Kent and lifted multiple prints. A palmprint was searched through the AFIS database producing a potential hit. The same house was burglarized again the next day and examiners went back to the home to process the scene. The palmprint from the first burglary was verified so an examiner provided a suspect name to officers when she went out to the second burglary. Officers were able to react faster because of the identification the examiner made and the suspect was arrested that day for the burglary and possession of stolen property. Having the suspect name also helped officers determine that some of the objects had been pawned.

## Palmprint Key to Homicide Case

In June 2014, a SPD Latent Print Examiner developed a clear palmprint from the rear interior window of a car involved in the murders of two men in Leschi. The print was searched in the AFIS database and matched to a man who was wanted for Failure to Register as a Sex Offender. The print shifted the focus of the murder investigation to this man. It also provided further clues that tied him to other crimes. The suspect was arrested in July in New Jersey.

## Homicide Print Leads to Federal Investigation

One of Bellevue Police Department's examiners processed evidence from a homicide and developed a print on a container used to ship a controlled substance from the Midwest to a local "customer". The recipient subsequently overdosed and died. The print was searched against the FBI's national fingerprint database and identified to a suspect in the Eastern U.S. An unknown participant until identified, this individual was found to be associated with the "Silk Road" drug consortium, an illegal international drug supply organization. The case is now part of a federal criminal investigation.

**406**  
Requests for  
crime scene  
assistance



**14,930**  
Items of  
evidence  
processed

# CRIME SCENE

## Murder Case Solved

In December 2013, a West Seattle woman was found dead in her home after being beaten by an intruder. Detectives developed a suspect, but needed more evidence to warrant an arrest. A SPD Latent Print Examiner lifted a print from a partially wrapped Christmas gift that placed the suspect at the scene. He was charged with Murder in the First Degree with Sexual Motivation and in March 2014, was confronted with the evidence and confessed to the crime.

## Teamwork Helps Solve Brutal Home Invasion Robbery

In 2013, two men forced their way into a Kirkland home and held an 18-year-old man captive. The suspects were armed with knives and threatened to kill the victim before brutally stabbing him in the legs, shoulder, and head. The victim fled and a neighbor administered aid. An examiner's thorough analysis of the fingerprint collected at the crime scene was an integral part in focusing investigators' attention in the right direction almost immediately. Prints obtained from beer bottles recovered at the scene also proved to be invaluable to the case's overall success. In 2014, the two suspects were sentenced to over 25 years in prison for Attempted Murder and Burglary in the First Degree.

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