CITY OF LONG BEACH
CLASSIFICATION SPECIFICATION

TITLE: **Forensic Specialist I – II**

DEFINITION: Under general supervision, obtains latent prints; photographs, collects and preserves evidence at crime scenes; processes and compares prints using various chemical methodologies.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

Grade Level I - Performs the entry-level duties of the classification.
Grade Level II - Performs the journey-level duties of the classification.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

- Participates in crime scene investigations to recognize, collect and preserve evidence including taking photographs, lifting latent prints, casting impressions, collecting body fluids and body parts, vacuuming for hairs and fibers, and uses laser applications for detecting fingerprints and body fluid evidence;
- Compares latent prints to inked or digitally captured prints;
- Prepares, enters and compares latent fingerprints in the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS);
- Prepares detailed reports of crime scene investigations, comparison results and other activities;
- Testifies as an expert in court on fingerprint comparisons, collection of evidence and processing of crime scenes;
- Prepares court exemplars;
- Maintains unit files and keeps records;
- Takes fingerprints and palm prints of suspects, victims, and witnesses using printer's ink or computerized optical digital technology;
- Takes aerial photographs of crime scenes;
- Consults with and/or assists criminalists, photographers, police officers, attorneys, and officers of the court;
- Tracks the progress of assigned case work and status backlogs;
- Makes recommendations concerning equipment, policies, procedures, and budget;
- May train personnel in collection and preservation of evidence;
- Communicates with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, and identification units;
- May attend community meetings as a speaker;
- Operates a City vehicle;
- Performs other duties as required.

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MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- One year of full-time, paid experience in crime scene investigation including identification techniques, examining latent fingerprints, fingerprinting and photography of crime scenes with a law enforcement or similar agency; **OR** graduation from an accredited college or university with an Associates degree and an internship of a minimum of 120 hours in forensic science; **OR** four years paid experience as a Fingerprint Classifier;
- Knowledge of analytical and evaluative techniques for detecting evidence and interpreting significance;
- Ability and willingness to operate a personal computer or computer terminal;
- Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing;
- Willingness to work day/afternoon/night/split shifts, weekends, overtime, holidays, and “on call” as required;
- A valid California Class C motor vehicle operator's license.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- Additional coursework in latent print comparison, photography, and crime scene collection and preservation of evidence;
- A Latent Print Comparison Certification issued by the International Association of Identification (IAI).

HISTORY:

Established – 12/22/1972
Graded – 10/19/1988
Consolidated Fingerprint Classifier with Identification Technician I and Identification Technician with Identification Technician III – 10/26/1988
Deletion of Identification Technician III – 02/14/1995
Classification Title Change – 01/03/2007

Approval/Adoption Dates: 01/03/2007 - Human Resources Department
04/04/2007 - Civil Service Commission