



Houston Police Department (HPD) Property Evidence Room Compliance Audit



OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of the audit were:

- Evaluate HPD's internal controls and accuracy of the systems used to manage property and evidence; and
- Evaluate compliance with applicable policies and procedures.

BACKGROUND

Managed by HPD, the Property Division is responsible for managing the preservation and control of property and evidence.

The Property Division establishes and implements internal controls to guide the operations of the three primary units:

- Intake
- Storage
- Disposition and Disposal

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City Controller

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City Auditor

AUDIT RESULTS

No findings were noted, however outlined below are opportunities identified to strengthen security internal controls over computer access, as well as enhancing the safety of storage locations.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Our report included the following recommendations to HPD management:

- Develop a timeline, preferably a three-day schedule during which access to the computer system by former employees will be deactivated to prevent unauthorized access to evidence stored by the Department.
- Evaluate ventilation in areas where narcotics and other toxic chemical substances are stored to reduce the potential for adverse health effects.
- Evaluate the feasibility of moving highly flammable items to a facility with limited employee exposure and a reduced potential for risk to property.