



HFSC's CEO and President Leaves Post, Board Appoints Interim Head

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dr. Daniel Garner, the Houston Forensic Science Center's first president, executive director and CEO, will be leaving effective December 31 pursuant to the terms of his employment contract.

The HFSC Board of Directors at a meeting on Wednesday appointed Dr. Peter Stout, currently HFSC's COO and vice president, interim CEO and president.

The board appointed Dr. Garner CEO and president in 2013, shortly before HFSC took over management of what had previously been the Houston Police Department's Crime Lab, Crime Scene Unit and parts of its Identification Division.

Dr. Garner played a crucial role in ensuring the smooth transition of Houston's forensic services from law enforcement management to a civilian agency. He has overseen the implementation of new processes and procedures, as well as guided seven of HFSC's eight disciplines to accreditation under international standards.

"Dr. Garner's contributions and leadership during HFSC's early years were absolutely essential to making the Center what it is today, and to ensuring its long-term success," said Nicole Casarez, board chairwoman.

Dr. Garner joined HFSC after a more than 40-year-long forensic career. He had previously served as chief of the forensic services section of the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program, a component of the U.S. Department of Justice's Criminal Division. He also had been president of Cellmark Diagnostics Inc.,

which he helped transform into a market leader in forensic DNA testing. Dr. Garner began his career in the Forensic Science Laboratory of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

HFSC is a local government corporation that provides forensic services to the City of Houston and other local agencies. HFSC is overseen by a Board of Directors appointed by the Mayor of Houston and confirmed by the Houston City Council. Its management structure is designed to be responsive to a 2009 recommendation by the National Academy of Sciences that called for crime laboratories to be independent of law enforcement and prosecutorial branches of government.

HFSC operates in eight forensic disciplines.

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