

More Staff To Clear Backlog Of Untested Rape Kits

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LOS ANGELES (AP) - Los Angeles city officials say they have a plan to clear a backlog of 7,000 untested rape evidence kits.

The plan was unveiled after a city audit found more than 200 of the kits had not been processed before the statute of limitations expired.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa says the rapists will be found and will be held accountable.

The mayor's office says the plan calls for the addition of 10 criminalists every six months until the crime lab is fully staffed, and an increase in funding for outsourcing.

The Budget and Finance Committee forwarded the plan to the City Council, which is expected to consider a funding request Wednesday.

The plan was also endorsed by Chief William Bratton and Councilman Jack Weis