

BACKLOG REDUCTION



I BELIEVE IN MIRACLES

NIJ Grant Summit, October 27, 2009

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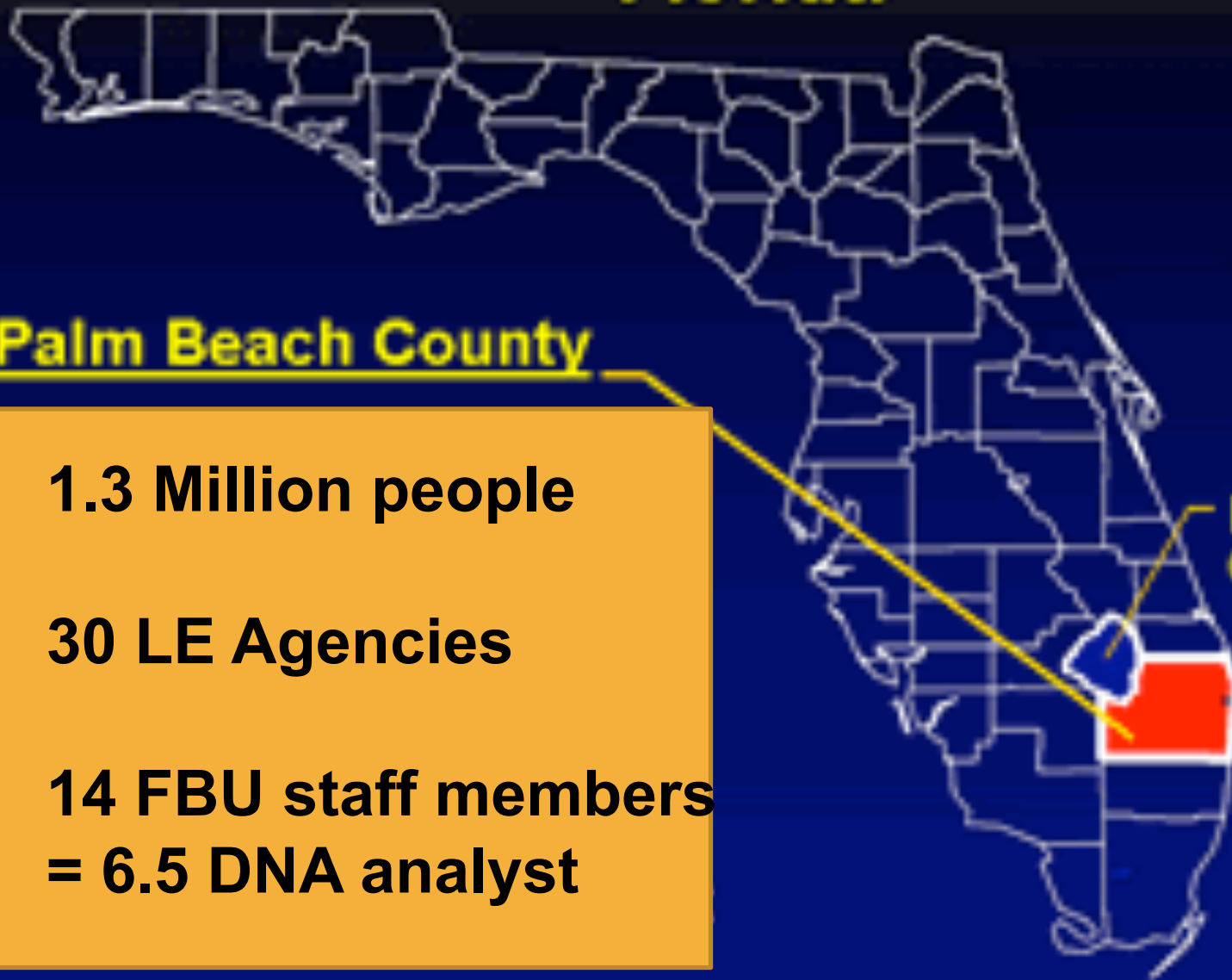
DEFINITIONS

- ✘ *BACKLOG = active case awaiting assignment*
 - + *Case called in*
 - + *Evidence is in*
 - + *CLOCK STARTS TICKING*

- ✘ *TURN-AROUND TIME*
 - + *From the time a case is called in until a report is submitted to the agency*



Florida



Palm Beach County

1.3 Million people

30 LE Agencies

**14 FBU staff members
= 6.5 DNA analyst**

**Lake
Okeechobee**

PRE-OCTOBER 1, 2008

FBU CASE ACCEPTANCE POLICY:

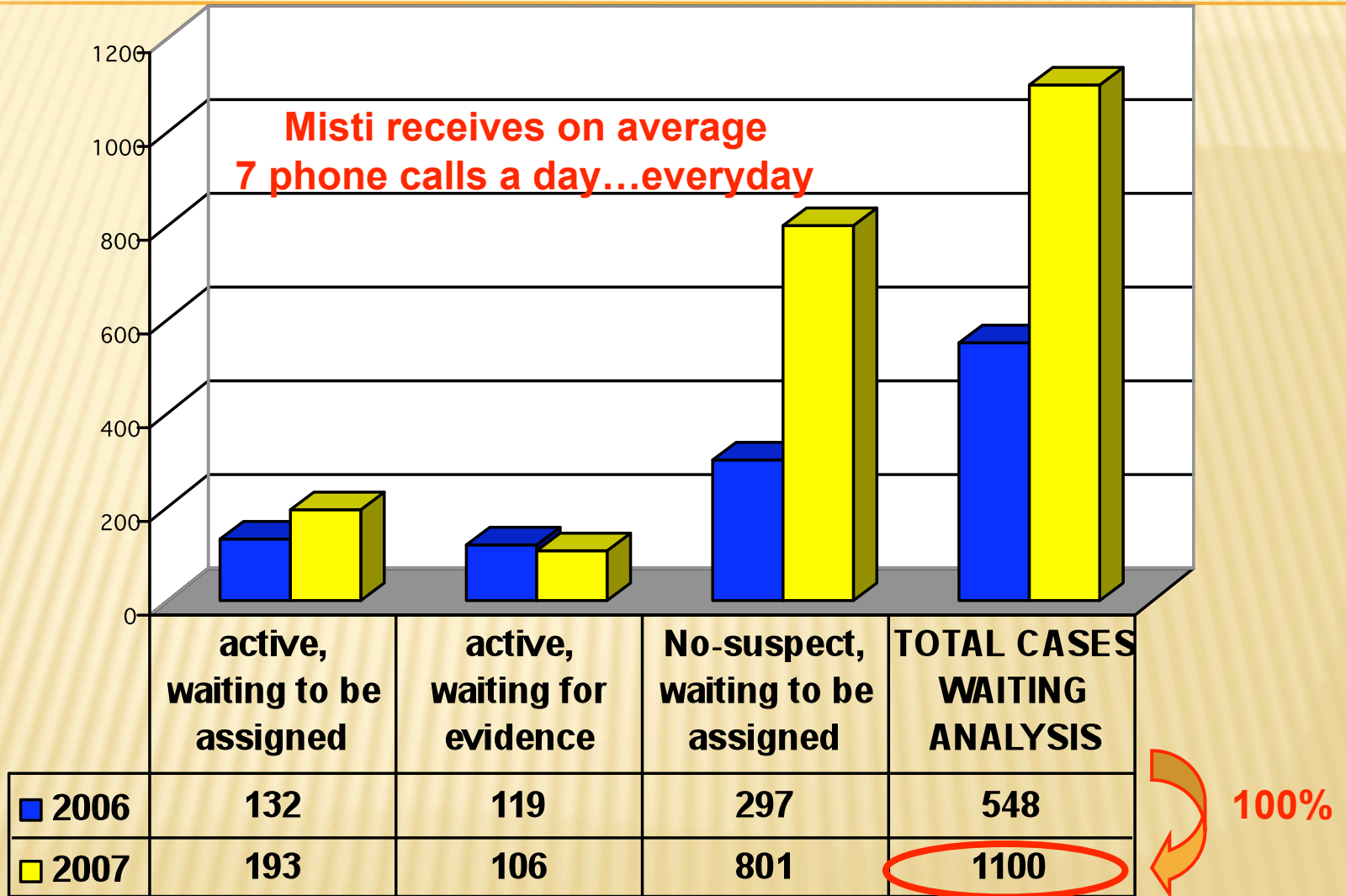
Will only accept cases:

× with a suspect OR

× without a suspect



END 2007 BACKLOG STATUS:



BENCH WORK...

	2004	2005	2006	2007
#Submissions	1641	1673	2391 ^{30%}	3513 ^{47%}
#Items Worked	3241	3127	4177 ^{25%}	6696 ^{60%}
#Stains Tested	4765	3985	5271 ^{32%}	8274 ^{57%}
# Stains w/DNA	1693	2060	3634 ^{24%}	5355 ^{47%}

BUDGET FOR THE FBU WAS INCREASING DRAMATICALLY EVERY YEAR



WHAT HAVE WE DONE TO TRY TO BECOME MORE EFFICIENT?

- ✘ NIJ grants: >3 Million over eight years
- ✘ Interns: 1-3 Interns every summer
- ✘ Automation: First small lab in the in the US to use robotics
- ✘ Volunteers: clerical mainly
- ✘ Process Mapping: 2004, re-organized lab
- ✘ Increasing Staff

**The lab was not complaining...
we just want a better business practice...**



WHAT WAS IN THE BACKLOG?

August 15th, 2008: the FBU was 1,770 cases backlogged

Conducted review of all 1,770 cases and found:

- **411 Cases were not proceeding to a judicial finding**
- **115 Cases no evidence submitted**

What about the other 1,209 Backlogged Cases?



CULLING CASES

1,209 CASES

618 (51%) NEED MORE INFORMATION

- Need to submit victim, elimination, suspect standards
- Where evidence is found (inside or outside)
- How is the evidence related to crime
- Need to know what “Swabs for DNA” means
- Need to know what evidence is investigative (too many items submitted)
- Evidence not submitted

591 (28%) ACTIVE, READY TO BE ASSIGNED

•But which ones are truly probative?

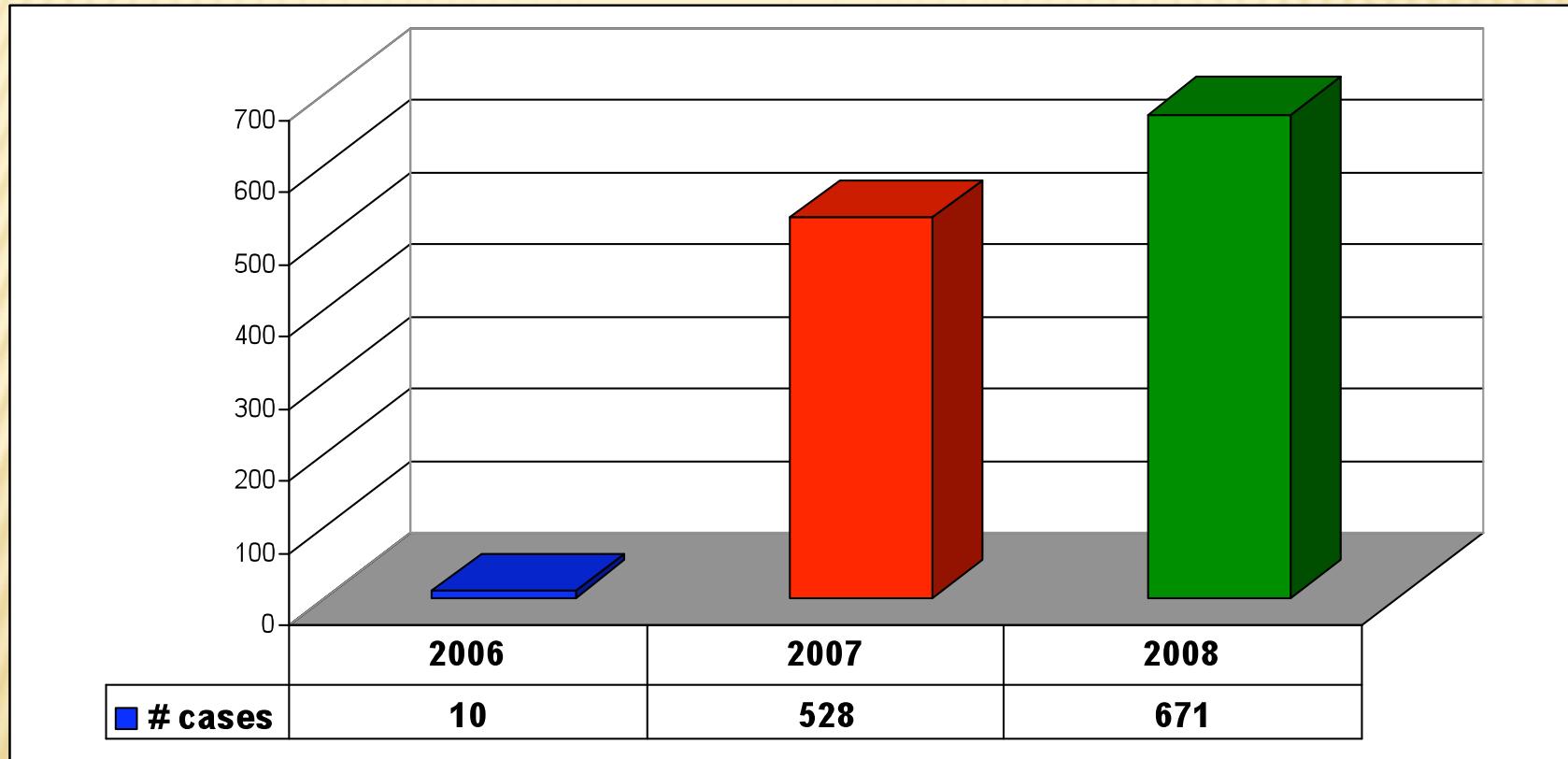
The analysts are spending an inordinate amount of time trying to figure out what samples to test.



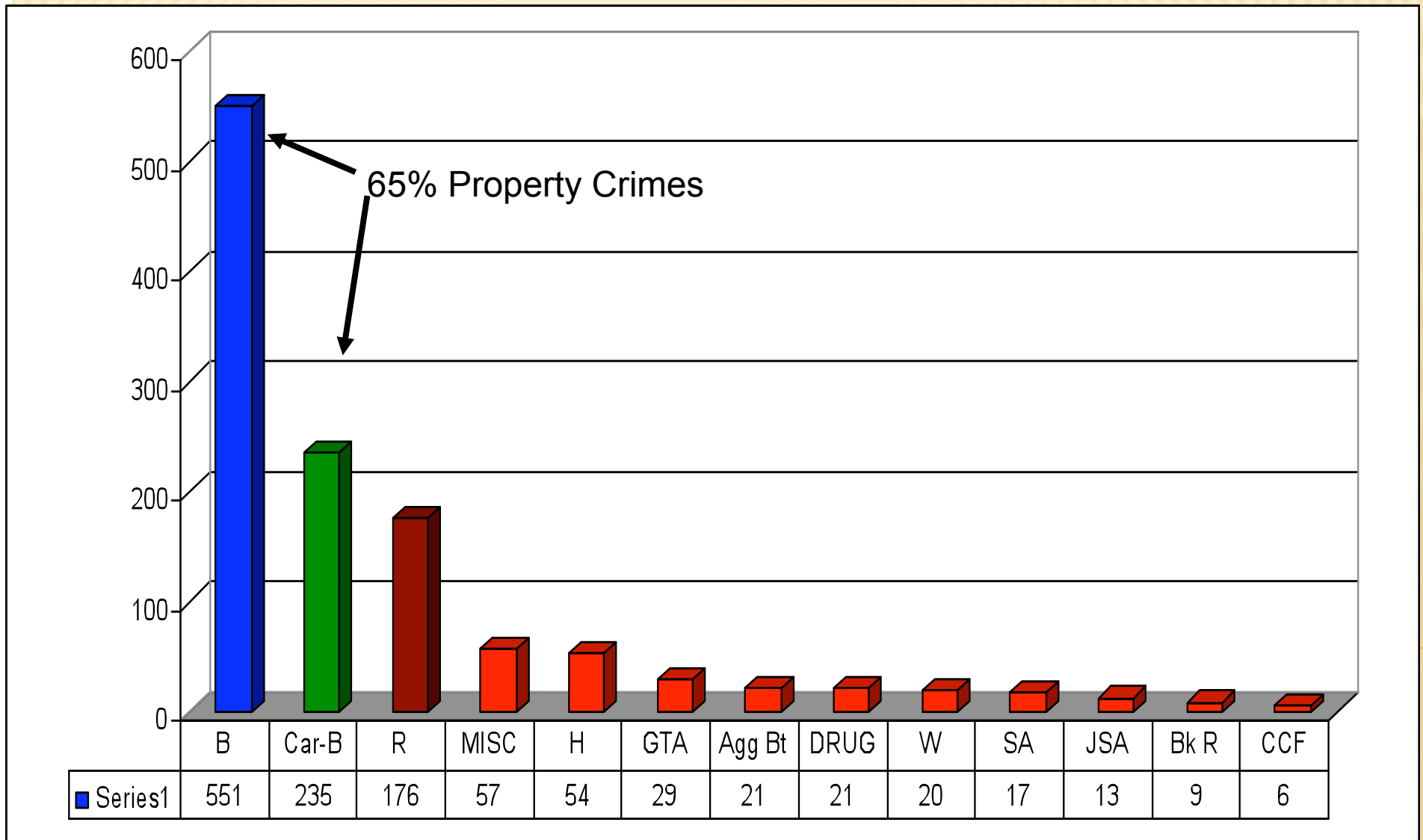
Of the 1,209 CASES...



When were the 1,209 backlogged cases submitted?

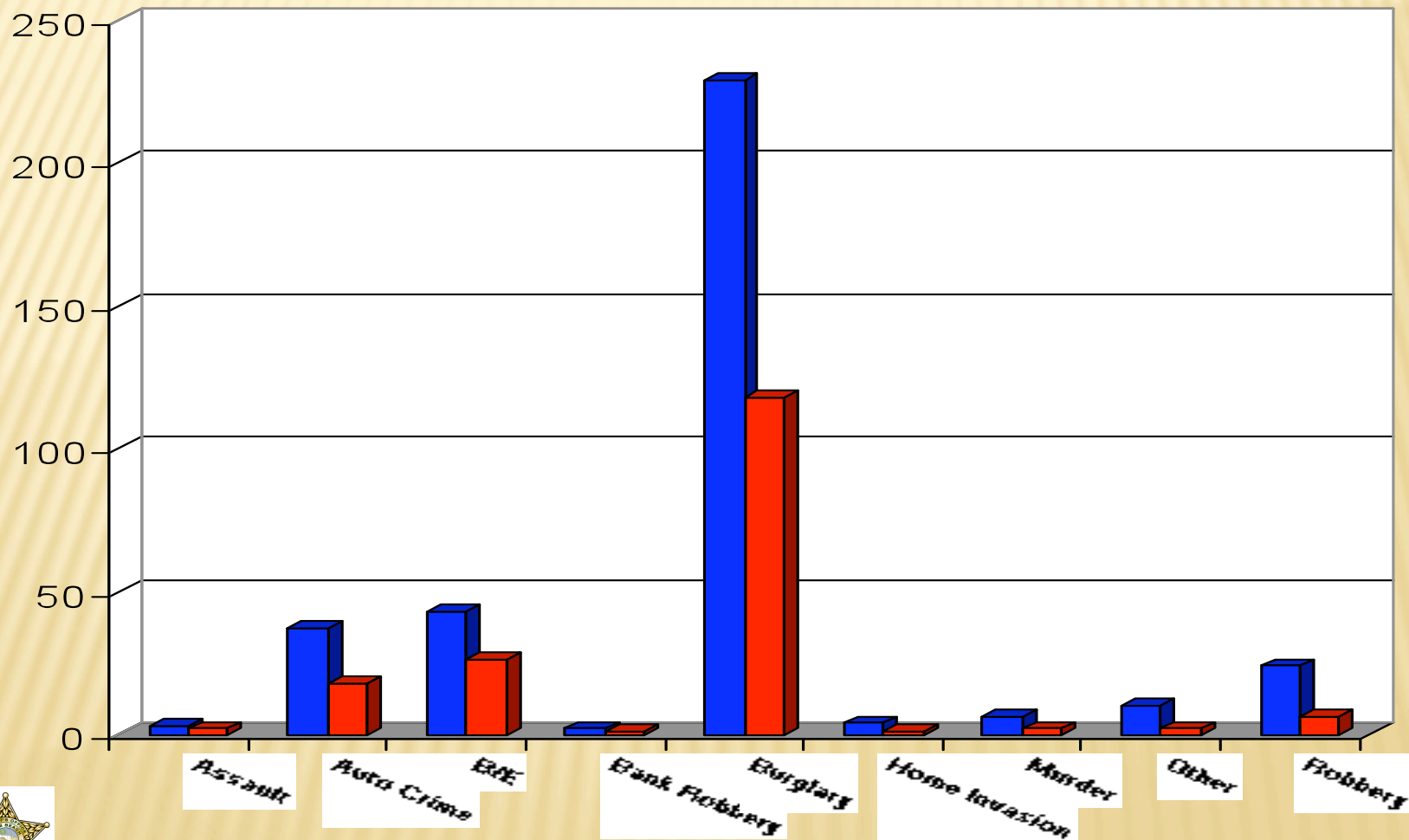


TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES CALLED-IN (AS OF 08-15-08)



SHOULD PROPERTY CRIMES BE WORKED? CASES WORKED V CODIS HITS

ANSWER: YES

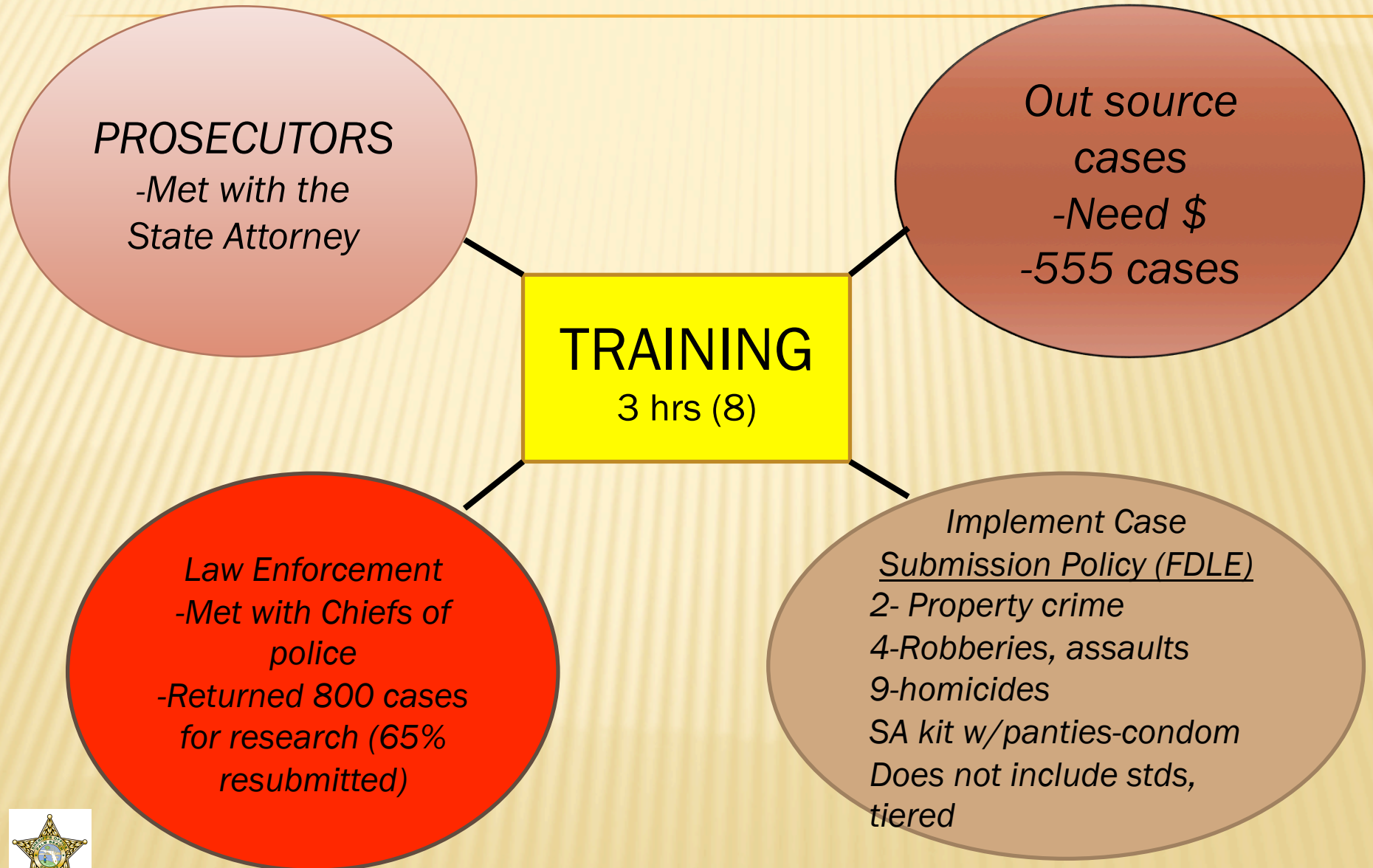


WHY DID THE BACKLOG BECOME SO LARGE?

1. ASAP CASES: Too many expedited cases; Never called in, going to court
2. CSI AFFECT: Regardless of the evidence or type of case, juries expect DNA
 - × BURGLARY SUBMISSIONS:
 - ★ Swabs of: door knobs, sliding screen doors, closet doors, deadbolts, dresser drawers, end tables, jewelry boxes, cables to TV's/computers, suspect, "may have touched", items from garbage, medicine cabinets,
 - ★ Cars: steering wheels, dashboards, buttons to radio, latch to glove box, consoles, inside driver and passenger-front/back seats, 25-30 sets of swabs
- 3., GTA
 - ★ Entire interior of car and anything found on the exterior, including surrounding area
- 4., ROBBERIES
 - × Swabs of: purse straps, urine in the bathtub, rumbottles, victim's arms, Countertops, cash drawer, candy wrappers, store displays, masks, shoes, duct tape, zip ties, radar detector, hats, lighters, victim cell phone, safe, wallet, pockets, boxer shorts, "liquid", edge trimmer, weed whacker, bicycles, Swabs of: door knobs, sliding screen doors, closet doors, deadbolts, dresser drawers, end tables, jewelry boxes, cables to TV's/computers, suspect, "may have touched", items from garbage, medicine cabinets,

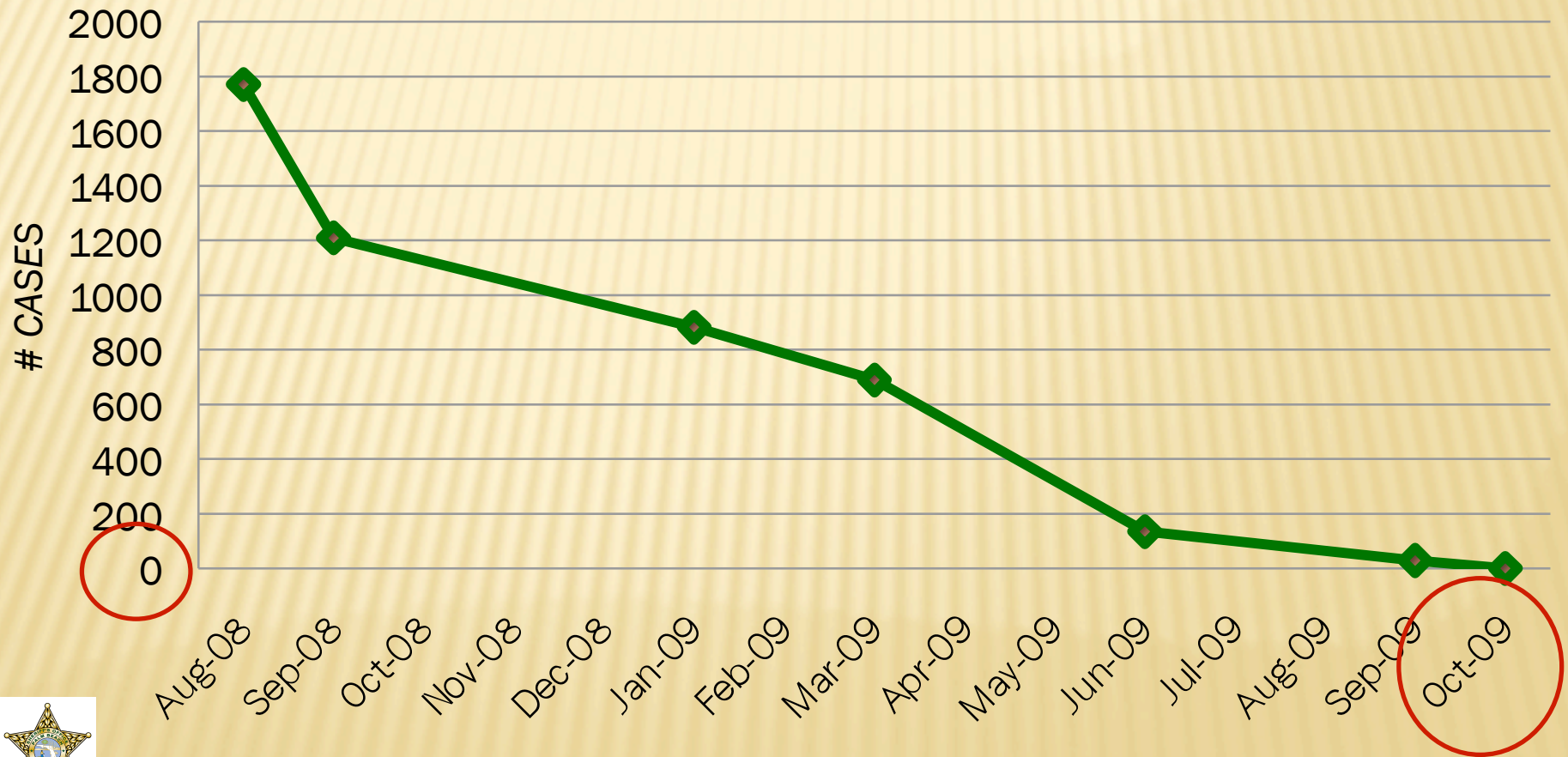


BACKLOG REDUCTION APPROACH



AFTER 12 MONTHS; BACKLOG REDUCTION

Backlogged Cases



WHAT ABOUT THE 555 OUTSOURCED No-suspect PROPERT CRIME CASES

% PROFILES CODIS QUALIFYING

BODY FLUIDS (312)

73%

Blood	84%
Saliva/bottles/cans/cups	55%
Saliva cigars/ cigarettes	67%
intimate	45%

CLOTHING (147)

58%

clothing	50%
gloves	63%
hats/caps	70%

GUNS (98)

22%

gun-whole/trigger/grip/frame/slide	26%
gun-live rounds	0%
gun- magazine	20%

VEHICLE (99)

10%

car-door/seats/dashboard	9%
car-glove box/center console	4.50%
car-knobs/levers/controls	7.70%
car-steering wheel/ gear shift	14%

BURGLARY-TOUCH (97)

10%

doors/windows/screens	6%
cabinets/counters/drawers	26%
furniture	9%



A YEAR LATER...

•SAO:

*I have not heard any grumbling by any of the prosecutors regarding the case submission policy”

*The defense likes to point out to the jury what you have not done, the case submission policy does not appear to have affected the jury since the informative evidence was analyzed

•LE Agency:

*There were grumbings originally but after the training, we got it

*Now at the crime scene we are already evaluating which samples will be going to the lab

* We now feel our cases may be done whereas before we thought they were in a black hole

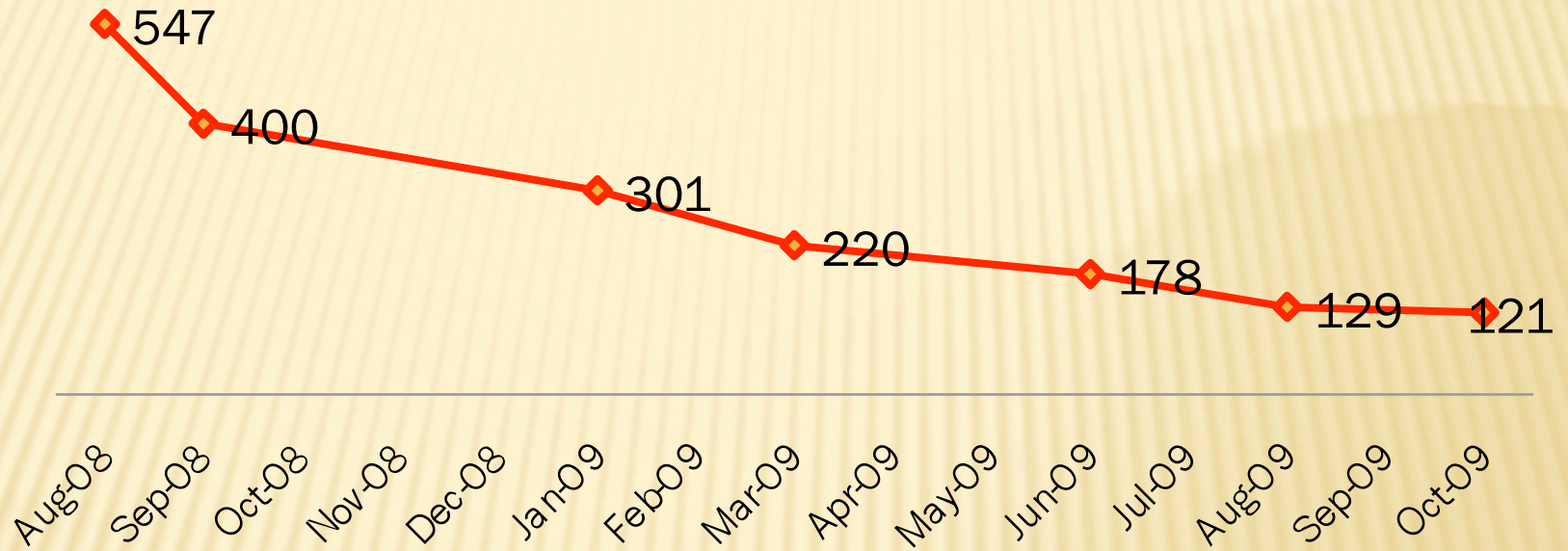
•PBSO Management:

*Consummate support on all levels



FINALLY... IN DAYS

Turn Around



LESSON LEARNED?

KEEP THE HOMEFIRES BURNING...

THANK YOU...

