

WARWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT

"A Nationally Accredited Agency"

Colonel Bradford E. Connor, Chief of Police

99 Veterans Memorial Drive

Warwick, RI 02886-4617

(401) 468-4200

April 24, 2025

The Honorable Representative Evan P. Shanley

Chair, House State Government and Elections

82 Smith Street

Providence, RI 02903

April 21, 2025

Re: Support for House Bill H-6188 – The Linda DaLomba Purple Alert Act

Dear Chairman Shanley,

As Chief of the Warwick Police Department, I am writing to voice my strong support for House Bill H-6188, known as the Linda DaLomba Purple Alert Act. This important legislation would create a dedicated alert system to help locate missing individuals with developmental, intellectual, or physical disabilities who are at heightened risk.

Our neighbors to the north, the Cranston Police Department recently faced a sobering example of why such a system is necessary. Ms. Linda DeLomba, a woman with profound developmental and physical disabilities, went missing for several days. Despite mobilizing all available resources, the lack of a targeted alert system hindered our ability to quickly broadcast vital information to the public. Her case highlighted the urgent need for a mechanism like the Purple Alert.

Rhode Island already uses the Emergency Alert System for Amber and Silver Alerts, both of which have proven highly effective in rapidly engaging the community and law enforcement. The proposed Purple Alert would build upon this proven infrastructure, filling a critical gap by covering vulnerable individuals who fall outside the criteria of existing alerts but still face significant danger.

Establishing the Purple Alert system would greatly enhance coordination between law enforcement, media, and the public—dramatically improving the odds of quickly and safely recovering individuals like Ms. DeLomba. This initiative represents a common-sense step forward in protecting some of our most vulnerable residents.

I urge you and your colleagues in the legislature to consider the real and life-saving potential of this legislation. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and for your ongoing dedication to the safety and well-being of all Rhode Islanders

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Col. Connor", followed by a horizontal line.

Colonel Bradford E. Connor
Chief of Police
Warwick Police Department