



MAYOR

Kenneth J. Hopkins

Cranston City Hall
869 Park Avenue
Cranston, Rhode Island 02910

April 23, 2025

State Representative Evan P. Shanley
House State Government & Elections Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

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

Dear Chairman Shanley and Honorable Members of the Committee:

There are moments in public service that remind us why we do this work. About 6 weeks ago, Linda DaLomba, a nonverbal woman with autism, went missing in Cranston, and we witnessed the very best of our community. Police officers, first responders, neighbors, and volunteers came together to search until Linda was found safe, more than 70 hours later. In that moment, we were lucky, but luck is no substitute for preparation.

That's why I am writing to express my strongest support for House Bill H-6188, The Linda DaLomba Purple Alert Act, and I respectfully urge your committee to advocate for its advancement to a floor vote during this legislative session.

This bill takes a simple but powerful step: establishing a statewide Purple Alert system to notify and engage the public when a vulnerable adult with cognitive or developmental disabilities goes missing. Modeled on existing Amber and Silver alert infrastructure and developed with RIEMA and law enforcement, a Purple Alert would rapidly activate a coordinated, statewide response when a qualifying individual goes missing. This bill is not just about public safety, it's about peace of mind.

As Mayor, I've learned that government doesn't always move quickly, and it doesn't always move together. But in this case, it did. This bill represents a model partnership between local and state leadership. Cranston officials, law enforcement, and our State Representative, Chris Paplauskas, came together to turn a crisis into a clear, coordinated response. That's what public service is supposed to look like.

At the end of the day, the measure of any society is how it protects those who cannot protect themselves. The Purple Alert tells every Rhode Islander: we see you, we value you, and we won't leave you behind. The Purple Alert could have made a difference in Linda's case, and it will absolutely make a difference moving forward. I thank you for your consideration and urge you to move H-6188 forward as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Kenneth J. Hopkins
Mayor, City of Cranston

