



**Patrick W. Polky**  
*Sheriff*

# KNOX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



**Curt R. Andrick**  
*Chief Deputy*

Date: February 24, 2025

To: Email Distribution List

Reference: Response to Luca Mellon's Email dated February 14, 2025

I am writing this letter in response to an email you were sent on February 14, 2025, from Luca Mellon, claiming to be a Knox County Jail Board of Visitors (BOV) member and providing the annual report on behalf of the Knox BOV. Although I do not think Luca intended to cause any harm, it is important to stress that they are not a member of the Knox BOV.

On August 6, 2024, I withdrew from the Joint Waldo and Knox BOV and started a Knox BOV. A BOV is an integral part of the correctional system, and they provide Sheriffs with great perspectives and ideas; I wanted to give the Knox jail population a BOV dedicated solely to their needs. Luca was a Joint Waldo and Knox BOV member and the only member interested in joining the new Knox BOV. Unfortunately, language in the statute prevents any employee of the Sheriff's Office from being a BOV member. Because Luca was an employee through a contract with Maine Pretrial Services, I did not appoint them to the Knox BOV.

As many of you can appreciate, the Sheriff's role is busy. It has been doubly so for me since September 2023, when I agreed to assist the Knox County Commissioners as they dealt with staffing and leadership challenges in the communications department and the county administrator position. After reading Luca's recent email, I reviewed my communications for the items Luca mentions; I found only one email from Luca since August 2024. I do not recall ever seeing that communication and do not see that I responded to it, so I likely did not see it. I also do not remember any conversations with Luca since August 2024.

Since August 2024, my staff and I have attempted to recruit members for the BOV. We had no success until this month. During a community meeting, several participants expressed interest in serving. I took swift action to avoid losing momentum and was lucky enough to appoint six members to the Knox BOV on February 10, 2025.

The Maine Department of Corrections (MDOC) is the authority responsible for the Detention and Correctional Standards for Maine Counties and Municipalities, and the MDOC Inspections Division is responsible for ensuring our compliance with them. A BOV is part of the standards,

**Law Enforcement Offices**  
Knox County Public Safety Building  
301 Park Street  
Rockland, ME 04841-2124

**Correctional Facility**  
Knox County Jail  
327 Park Street  
Rockland, ME 04841-5302

**Airport Security Office**  
Knox County Regional Airport  
23 Terminal Lane  
Owls Head, ME 04854-2500

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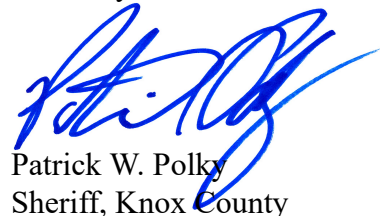
and the inspectors were aware of the troubles we had recruiting members and were actively assisting us in gaining membership.

MDOC Inspections Division conducted a Biennium Inspection of the Knox County Jail in 2024, which reported that we had operated within the Correctional Standards for Maine Counties and Municipalities for the last two years.

The Knox BOV members are requesting time to establish themselves and become familiar with the work; any report made now would be superficial.

Thank you for taking the time to review this letter. Please contact me with any questions or concerns at +1 (207) 594-0429, ext. 160, or [ppolky@knoxcountymaine.gov](mailto:ppolky@knoxcountymaine.gov).

Sincerely,



Patrick W. Polky  
Sheriff, Knox County