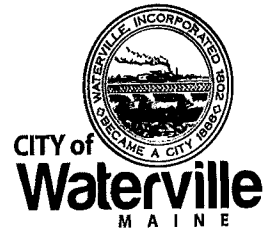


# Waterville Police Department

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**WILLIAM BONNEY - CHIEF OF POLICE**



Major Joshua Woods  
Commander - Patrol

Major Jason Longley  
Commander - Support Services

## POSITION IN SUPPORT OF:

LD 1187: An Act to Require Certain Mental Health Data to Be Included in Uniform Crime Reports

Presented to Maine's Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

I was asked to come here today and speak about some of the concerns that police departments have about the lack of knowledge and tracking of information on the process for returning firearms, specifically about the services or resources the individual received, and the stabilization provided.

As of right now when a "yellow flag" order is granted and issued, the order goes into effect for a set amount of time. It appears that there is nothing at the end of the order that requires any follow-up to see if the individual's situation that caused the order to be issued in the first place has changed. The concern is that under the current practice, the order expires, and we must return the firearms to this individual without any knowledge of whether the circumstances that led to the order being issued have changed.

We are currently dealing with an example of this right now. 2 years ago, we sought a "yellow flag" order on an individual who had smashed out windows in her apartment with an AR-15 Rifle and was pacing around her apartment screaming at her boyfriend. Her boyfriend made it out of the apartment and to safety and informed Officers that his girlfriend was having a mental breakdown and thought she was being framed for the murder of a Waterville Police Officer. She exited the apartment and began pacing in the street armed with the AR-15. She eventually got in a vehicle and led officers on a pursuit throughout Waterville until she went down a dead end on the Colby Campus and jumped out of the vehicle without the weapon and was taken to the hospital for an evaluation. The "yellow flag" order was granted and recently expired. The individual is currently requesting the return of her AR-15.

Major Joshua Woods

Waterville PD