



The General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
CAPE COD & ISLANDS LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION
State House, Boston 02133-1053



Senator Julian Cyr · Senator Viriato deMacedo

Representative Timothy R. Whelan · Representative William L. Crocker, Jr. · Representative David T. Vieira

Representative Sarah K. Peake · Representative Randy Hunt · Representative Dylan Fernandes

April 23, 2018

Chairs of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary

Representative Claire D. Cronin
State House, Room 136
Boston, MA 02133

Senator William N. Brownsberger
State House, Room 504
Boston, MA 02133

Chairs of the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security

Representative Harold P. Naughton Jr.
State House, Room 167
Boston, MA, 02133

Senator Michael O. Moore
State House, Room 109-B
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairwoman Cronin, Chairman Brownsberger, Chairman Naughton, and Chairman Moore:

As you are all well aware, the town of Yarmouth, the Yarmouth Police Department, and our entire Cape Cod community have been devastated by the death of Yarmouth Sergeant Sean Gannon, who was killed in the line of duty on April 12, 2018.

The individual who has been charged with this heinous murder is Thomas Latanowich, who has reportedly spent time living in various locations across Cape Cod and the City of Somerville while on parole.

We are shocked that Latanowich has been criminally charged over 125 times, including numerous serious and violent crimes. His past criminal acts include violent abuse of a domestic partner, many charges of assault and battery, attempted robbery with a dangerous weapon, possession of various illegal drugs with the intent to distribute, numerous charges for possession of illegal guns and dangerous weapons, witness intimidation, among others.

It is clear that Latanowich is a career criminal with a predilection towards violence, both to complete strangers and those close to him. But he has faced little prison time for his extensive crimes, only serving prison time from 2010 – 2014 for various gun and drug charges. Reports indicate that the several times Latanowich has been prosecuted for violent crimes, he was able to avoid imprisonment through a combination of not-guilty findings by judges, failure of key witnesses to testify, and outright dismissal of charges.

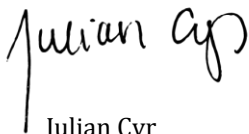
His extensive criminal record, and seeming ability to dodge proper punishment for his crimes, has made this awful event even more difficult for Sgt. Gannon's loved ones, the Yarmouth Police Department, and our close-knit Cape Cod community. Now that we have laid Sgt. Gannon to rest, we seek to turn our region's grief towards action.

Unfortunately the Commonwealth has seen the heinous murders of police officers in the line of duty in recent years. Woburn Officer John Maguire was killed by Dominic Cinelli, a violent criminal out on parole in 2010. In 2016, Auburn Officer Ronald Tarentino Jr. was killed by habitual offender Jorge Zambrano.

In light of this most recent killing, we respectfully request that the Joint Committee on the Judiciary in consultation with the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security convene an oversight hearing in the coming weeks to further scrutinize this matter and to identify lapses in the criminal justice system that led to Latanowich committing this crime. We would ask for the opportunity to be a part of this hearing and suggest that the following be invited to attend and provide testimony: Secretary Daniel Bennett, Chief Justice of the Trial Court Paula M. Carey, District Attorney Michael O'Keefe, District Attorney Marian Ryan, Yarmouth Police Chief Frank Frederickson, Somerville Police Chief David Fallon, Massachusetts Parole Board Chairman Paul Treseler, Massachusetts Probation Commissioner Edward J. Dolan, among others the committee deems appropriate.

We look forward to working with you in partnership in the weeks to come. Thank you for obliging this request.

Respectfully,



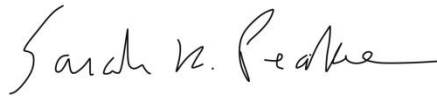
Julian Cyr
State Senator
Cape and Islands District



Representative Timothy R. Whelan
State Representative
First Barnstable District



William L. Crocker Jr.
State Representative
Second Barnstable District



Sarah K. Peake
State Representative
Fourth Barnstable District



Randy Hunt
State Representative
Fifth Barnstable District



David T. Vieira
State Representative
Third Barnstable District



Viriato M. deMacedo
State Senator
Plymouth and Barnstable District



Dylan Fernandes
State Representative
Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket District

CC:

Governor Charles D. Baker
Speaker Robert A. DeLeo
Senate President Harriette L. Chandler
Attorney General Maura Healey
Auditor Suzanne M. Bump
Members of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary
Members of the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
Chief Frank Frederickson, Yarmouth Police Department
Tracy Post, Chair of the Yarmouth Board of Selectmen