Griswold, Jessica

From:	Graham, Rebecca <Rebecca.Graham@maine.gov>
Sent:	Tuesday, November 10, 2026 2:53 PM
To:	Griswold, Jessica; Tew, Will
Subject:	RTKAK Burdensome and Technology subcommittee Report from DPS
Attachments:	Right to Know Report Burdensome Request.docx; BOT request.pdf; Targeting Individuals in Police Records_Redacted.pdf; Commercial Targeting of Records for repackaging.pdf; Overly complicated AI generated -Real.pdf; Discovery Circumventing Example 1.pdf
Follow Up Flag:	Follow up
Flag Status:	Completed

This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.

Hi Jessica and Will,

Please find the attached report and examples of FOAA requests that would benefit from additional tools to manage. While none of these requests sensitive, I'm extremely concerned about the requests connected to real individuals from adding to the material that is scraped from the internet and used to generate more digital issues for individuals. Some of our requests contain confidential personal details of individuals including all phone numbers and physical addresses current and former clearly found on other sources. I really did not want to add to the available records that can be found about individuals on the internet through this process and I have redacted them as a precaution. I hope this helps the discussion but please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Thank you!
Rebecca

Rebecca Graham
Director of Policy, FOAA & Legislative Affairs
Maine State Police
45 Commerce Drive
Augusta, Maine 04333
207-530-4864

Integrity* *Fairness* *Compassion* *Excellence

Correspondence to and from this office is considered a public record and may be subject to a request under the Maine Freedom of Access Act. Information that you wish to keep confidential should not be included in email correspondence.

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE STATE POLICE
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF POLICY

To: Right to Know Advisory Committee
Fr: Rebecca J. Graham, Director of Policy, FOAA & Legislative Affairs
Re: Preserving Government Transparency While Strengthening Individual Privacy Protections
Date: November 10, 2026

The Maine Department of Public Safety strongly supports the principles of government transparency, public accountability, and the public's right to know. These principles are fundamental to maintaining public trust in law enforcement.

However, we respectfully ask the Right to Know Advisory Committee to consider whether Maine's Freedom of Access Act adequately distinguishes between the public's right to scrutinize government operations and the use of government records to scrutinize, exploit, or commercially profit from private individuals.

The Department has experienced a significant increase to date in highly particularized requests targeting individuals identified in law enforcement records, including requests for materials subsequently repackaged and distributed through monetized social media platforms. These requests frequently concern people who have interacted with law enforcement under difficult or deeply personal circumstances, including victims, witnesses, and individuals who may never have been charged with a crime. Increasingly the requests target individuals running for office and their extended family members, and acquaintances with the guise of public interest.

The consequences of disclosure extend well beyond an invasion of privacy. Law enforcement records can contain personal identifiers, residential information, family relationships, financial circumstances, and other sensitive details that, when disclosed individually or aggregated with publicly available information, can expose individuals to identity theft, financial fraud, stalking, harassment,

45 Commerce Drive, Suite 1, 42 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0042
Phone: (207) 530-4684 rebecca.graham@maine.gov

intimidation, and other forms of exploitation. Once distributed through social media or commercial data platforms, this information can be copied, amplified, and retained indefinitely, leaving individuals with little practical ability to protect themselves or regain control over their personal information.

Transparency should illuminate the actions of government, not unnecessarily expose the private lives of those who encounter it.

The Department recognizes that public access cannot be conditioned solely on a requestor's identity, motives, or commercial interests. Legitimate journalism, independent oversight, and public commentary must remain protected. Nevertheless, the growing commercialization of sensitive law enforcement records raises important questions about whether existing statutory protections sufficiently account for individual privacy, the potential for harassment, and the enduring consequences of widespread digital publication.

These concerns are compounded by the substantial legal obligations associated with reviewing law enforcement records. Each request requires careful consideration of overlapping confidentiality statutes, investigative privileges, and privacy protections. The increasing volume and sophistication of these requests divert extremely limited resources from both timely public access and essential public safety responsibilities.

We respectfully encourage the Committee to examine narrowly tailored statutory reforms that preserve meaningful public access while strengthening protections against the unnecessary disclosure of sensitive personal information, particularly where disclosure contributes little to public understanding of government conduct.

We also encourage consideration of more practical mechanisms for addressing extraordinary or repetitive requests without requiring agencies to undertake costly litigation to obtain relief, particularly when the volume is often at the hands of anonymous requestors against which no practical action can be taken.

I have attached examples of requests that are very particularized requiring specific response procedures and ones that are very much designed to target the use of law enforcement records to target those associated with individuals running for public office. These are examples of requests received by our agency in the hundreds on a daily basis. To date we have received 970 requests, and increasingly more than 30 each day.

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The requests highlight those intended specifically to target individuals who are required to provide information to law enforcement agencies thus have information in government files, requests that are automatically generated by automated intelligence “BOTS”, requests that seek to repackage the images and video from traumatic events to increase social media viewership and requests that are purely commercial in nature. I have also included a request that a real individual has used AI to generate making the request extremely time consuming to address and respond to, requiring hours of staff time to generate an estimate that may aid in narrowing the response.

Additionally, we are hit with automatic requests by scrapping the internet for any notice of an arrest and requesting audio and visual from the event. They are not interested in the actions of government but rather the sensationalized nature of the types of incidents law enforcement must address only to repackage on a social media channel that is monetized. To date, the request I have included has been sent with different names in the same format over 200 times, even following a cease-and-desist request.

The public’s right to know and an individual’s right to privacy are not competing principles; both are essential to responsible government. Our request is not to diminish transparency, but to ensure that Maine’s public records laws continue to serve their intended purpose: holding government accountable while respecting the dignity, privacy, and safety of the people it serves.

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Phone: (207) 530-4684 rebecca.graham@maine.gov

From: Hazel Mason
To: DPS, FOAA; Moss, Shannon; Tyler.Davis@maine.gov
Subject: Dear Records Officer,
Date: Saturday, October 17, 2026 8:19:52 AM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Records Officer,

I hope this message finds you well.

I am writing to respectfully request access to public records and any corresponding video footage, including body-worn and vehicle-mounted camera recordings, related to the arrest of Erica Renee Pearn on July 10, 2023, by MS.

Arrest Details:

Full Name: Erica Renee Pearn
Date of Arrest: July 10, 2023
Time of Arrest: 3:30 AM
Arresting Agency: MS
Total Bond:

Personal Information:

Arrest Age:
Gender:
Height:
Weight:
Eye Color:

Charges:

Charges unknown

If this request has been directed to the wrong agency, I would appreciate your assistance in forwarding it to the appropriate department or advising me on the correct point of contact.

Thank you very much for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

Subject: Maine FOAA Request — Records Associated with Specified Addresses

To the FOAA Officer/Records Custodian:

Pursuant to Maine's Freedom of Access Act, 1 M.R.S. §§ 400–414, I request copies of all available law-enforcement and emergency-response records associated with the following names and / or addresses during the corresponding date ranges:

[redacted]

207 – [redacted]

207 – [redacted]

207 – [redacted]

207 – [redacted]

207 – [redacted]

207 – [redacted]

- [redacted] ME – 04774 | 8/1/2021 – 7/29/2026
- [redacted] ME – 04330 | 9/1/2019 – 12/21/2021
- [redacted] – 04774 | 5/1/2021 – 12/31/2023
- [redacted] – 3/4/2012 – 7/29/2026
- [redacted] – 04743 | 1/1/2017 – 10/31/2021

Please search for calls, incidents, complaints, investigations, responses, welfare checks, traffic-related events, arrests, citations, disturbances, domestic incidents, medical calls, fire calls, and any other contacts or dispatches associated with these addresses.

For each responsive event, please provide all available records, including:

1. 911 recordings and transcripts;

2. Non-emergency call recordings and transcripts;

3. Computer-aided dispatch records, calls-for-service, dispatch logs, incident histories, event chronologies, and unit-status records;

4. Incident, offense, arrest, supplemental, investigative, and follow-up reports;

5. Officer narratives, witness statements, field notes, and written statements;

6. Body-worn-camera, dashboard-camera, cruiser-camera, surveillance, and other audio or video recordings;

7. Photographs and other digital media;

8. Radio traffic, dispatch audio, mobile-data-terminal communications, and messages exchanged among responding personnel;

9. Citations, warnings, summonses, notices, and charging documents;

10. Records identifying the responding agencies, officers, units, incident numbers, disposition codes, and response times; and

11. Any other records documenting or relating to a law-enforcement or emergency response at or near the listed addresses.

Please search by street address and any apparent variations of the address, including unit or apartment numbers, former street designations, and abbreviated address formats.

If your agency's dispatch, 911, or communications records are maintained by another entity, please forward this request to that entity if permitted or identify the entity and its appropriate contact information.

If portions of responsive records are confidential, please redact only the protected portions and release all reasonably segregable nonconfidential material. If records are withheld, please identify the records withheld and cite the specific statutory basis for each withholding.

Electronic delivery by email or downloadable link is preferred via email to nicholaspopemail@gmail.com. For audio and video, please provide the original or highest-quality retained files with associated metadata.

Please notify me in advance if the estimated cost will exceed $250. If clarification could reduce the cost or burden of processing this request, please contact me before conducting the search.

Thank you,

[redacted]

From: Павло Чапля
To: DPS, FOAA
Subject: Maine FOAA Request — State of Maine v. Deven Young — Murder of Sunshine "Sunny" Stewart, Crawford Pond, Union, Knox County, Maine (July 2-3, 2025)
Date: Friday, October 16, 2026 7:13:14 AM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Re: Maine Freedom of Access Act Request — State of Maine v. Deven Young — Murder of Sunshine "Sunny" Stewart, Crawford Pond, Union, Knox County, Maine (July 2-3, 2025)

Dear FOAA Records Officer:

I am writing regarding the investigation and prosecution of the death of Sunshine "Sunny" Stewart, age 48, of the Tenants Harbor area of St. George, Maine.

On the evening of July 2, 2025, Ms. Stewart went paddleboarding alone on Crawford Pond in Union, Knox County, Maine, while she and her family were staying at the Mic Mac Cove Family Campground. She did not return.

Her body was located in the early hours of July 3, 2025, near 100 Acre Island on Crawford Pond, following a search initiated by the Maine Warden Service and joined by the Knox County Sheriff's Office and the Union Fire Department.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner ruled the death a homicide, with cause of death given as strangulation and blunt force trauma.

The Maine State Police, including its Major Crimes Unit, led the ensuing investigation. On July 16, 2025 — approximately two weeks after the discovery of the body — Deven Young, then age 17, also of the Mic Mac Cove Family Campground party and a resident of Frankfort, Maine, was taken into custody at the campground in Union.

Young was charged with one count of murder as a juvenile. His initial appearance was held July 18, 2025. He is represented by attorney Jeremy Pratt and has been held at the Long Creek Youth Development Center in South Portland by court order.

The Maine Office of the Attorney General, which prosecutes homicide cases statewide, has moved to have Young tried as an adult. A closed juvenile-court hearing on that motion was held at the Knox County Courthouse in Rockland on August 22, 2025. A judge subsequently found Young competent to stand trial; the competency evaluation itself was impounded.

This matter remains an active, highly publicized case. I am a documentary researcher preparing a factual account of the case for a true-crime documentary production, and I am requesting the public records described below.

A NOTE ON SCOPE: I recognize that Maine law affords significant confidentiality to records concerning a juvenile, both while the case remains in the juvenile system and (in part) if it is transferred to adult prosecution. I am not asking you to disregard any applicable confidentiality provision. I ask only that you apply the Maine Freedom of Access Act's presumption of public access to any record, or any reasonably segregable portion of a record, that is not subject to a specific statutory exemption or sealing order, and that you identify by statute or order any portion you withhold so I may evaluate it. Where a record (such as a law-enforcement investigative file, a 911 call, or a medical examiner's report) is not itself a "juvenile case record" under the juvenile code, I ask that you treat it under the ordinary FOAA standard applicable to that record type.

PRIORITY: AUDIOVISUAL AND SCENE MATERIALS — I respectfully request copies of the following records, with audiovisual and scene-documentation materials as the first priority:

1. All body-worn camera, dash-camera, and other video or audio recordings made by responding personnel during the search for Sunshine Stewart on July 2-3, 2025, including the search of Crawford Pond and the recovery of her body near 100 Acre Island.

2. All body-worn camera, dash-camera, and other video or audio recordings of the apprehension/taking into custody of Deven Young at the Mic Mac Cove Family Campground on or about July 16, 2025, including any approach, initial contact, and transport.

3. All audio or video recordings of any interview or interrogation of Deven Young, whether on-scene, during transport, or at a law-enforcement facility, including any recorded statements, denials, or changes in account.

4. All audio or video recordings of interviews of witnesses, including campground guests and staff, family members of the victim and the suspect, and any other person interviewed in connection with the search or the investigation.

5. All 911 call-for-service recordings, CAD (computer-aided dispatch) entries, dispatch logs, and dispatch radio traffic for July 2-3, 2025 concerning the report of a missing paddleboarder on Crawford Pond, and for July 16, 2025 concerning the apprehension of Deven Young.

6. Any surveillance, trail-camera, or privately-owned camera footage collected by investigators from the Mic Mac Cove Family Campground or its vicinity.

7. Crime-scene and recovery-scene photographs, including photographs of Crawford Pond, 100 Acre Island, the paddleboard, and any evidence recovered from the water or shoreline.

8. Any press-conference video, recorded public statements, and press releases issued by your agency concerning this case.

ADDITIONAL RECORDS REQUESTED:

9. The initial incident/call-for-service report and all supplemental reports, including the search log and chronology of the Crawford Pond search.

10. Any search-warrant applications, affidavits, returns, and inventories related to this investigation.

11. The arrest report, booking record, and any property/evidence log associated with the arrest of Deven Young.

12. Any autopsy report, toxicology report, and the medical examiner's report of investigation.

13. Any forensic reports (DNA, trace evidence, digital-forensic extraction of phones, or cell-site/location data) referenced in the investigative file.

14. All press releases, public statements, and media-relations correspondence issued by your agency regarding this case.

15. Any and all other records not specifically enumerated above but responsive to this investigation, with a request to supplement this production if additional responsive records are later located.

LEGAL BASIS: This request is made under the Maine Freedom of Access Act, 1 M.R.S. §§ 401-410. The Act establishes a presumption that public records are open to inspection and copying by "any person," without a residency requirement. I am not a Maine resident; these records will be used solely for journalistic and documentary purposes by The Record, a documentary studio.

If any specific record or portion of a record is withheld as exempt, I ask that you identify the specific statutory exemption relied upon and release all other reasonably segregable, non-exempt portions rather than withholding an entire record. As the lead investigative agency (including the Major Crimes Unit), Maine State Police is likely the primary custodian of the investigative file; I have sent parallel requests to other agencies named below.

Electronic delivery is preferred — a secure share link (such as Axon Evidence.com), Google Drive, WeTransfer, or email attachment.

I would appreciate your confirmation of receipt and an estimate of your anticipated response time under 1 M.R.S. §408-A.

Sincerely,

Pavlo Chapelka

Operations Manager, The Record (documentary studio)

Email: pavlocapla067@gmail.com

From: Joseph Roussel
To: Graham, Rebecca
Subject: Freedom of Access Act Request - Maine State Police Records
Date: Friday, November 6, 2026 1:11:57 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Maine State Police
Attn: Freedom of Access Act Contact
42 State House Station, 45 Commerce Drive
Augusta, ME 04333-0042

November 6, 2026

Re: Freedom of Access Act Request, 1 M.R.S. §§ 408-A et seq.

Under Maine's Freedom of Access Act, I request copies of the following public records of the Maine State Police, for the period October 1, 2021 through April 1, 2023:

1. Any official or unofficial report, complaint, call record, incident or case report, memo, trooper notes, or dispatch record referencing Joseph Roussel, Joseph F. Roussel, or Joseph F. Baker, or referencing signs posted on or near the Railroad Bed Road, Hancock Road, Alder Brook Road, or Sunrise Point in Lakeview Plantation, Piscataquis County.

2. All communications (emails, letters, text messages, call logs, and any information or materials provided) between any Maine State Police employee and William (Bill) Mayo, Scott Wilcox, Guy Dow, Robert Young, Rick Rublee, Scott Hoyle, Scott Jenkinson, any officer or member of the East Shore Lake Association, any employee of the City of Old Town or the Old Town Police Department, or any employee of the Piscataquis County Sheriff's Office regarding Joseph Roussel, Joseph F. Roussel, or Joseph F. Baker.

3. Any information about me forwarded to or from your agency by any person or agency, including any alert, bulletin, "be on the lookout" notice, officer-safety notice, or database entry containing my name, address, vehicle registration or plate numbers, vehicle descriptions, physical description, or identification numbers.

Search terms and identifiers: please include at least the names Joseph Roussel, Joe Roussel, Joseph F. Roussel, and Joseph F. Baker; William (Bill) Mayo, Scott Wilcox, Robert Young, and Guy Dow; the addresses bmayo@old-town.org, swilcox@old-town-pd.org, and ryoung@piscataquis.us, and any personal email account used by any of them; and Lakeview Plantation, Railroad Bed Road, Hancock Road, and Sunrise Point.

Please describe the search conducted, including which employees' records, email accounts, and databases were searched and the search terms used.

If any responsive record once existed but has been destroyed or deleted, please identify the record, the date of destruction, and the retention schedule relied on.

Please produce emails and electronic messages in native or complete electronic format with headers, metadata, and attachments intact, and release records on a rolling basis as they are located rather than holding them until the search is complete.

These requests include responsive records kept on personal devices or in personal email, text messaging, messaging app, or social media accounts of agency officials or employees, to the extent the records were made or received in connection with the transaction of public or governmental business, as "public records" are defined in 1 M.R.S. § 402(3).

Please provide electronic copies (PDF or native format) by email where possible. If any portion is withheld, please identify the record, the specific statutory exception relied on, and release all reasonably segregable portions. If fees will exceed $25, please send an estimate before proceeding.

Under 1 M.R.S. § 408-A(3), please acknowledge this request within 5 working days and provide a good-faith estimate of the time needed to respond. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Joseph Roussel
180 Brewer Lake Road
Orrington, ME 04474
kingsofmaine@gmail.com

DOWNEAST REGION PUBLIC DEFENDERS

130 Oak Street, Suite 5, Ellsworth, ME 04605
(207) 441-0263 | isabel.mullin@maine.gov

MAXWELL COOLIDGE
District Defender

SHANNON MEADE
ISABEL MULLIN
Assistant Defenders

Via E-Mail

November 5, 2026

Public Access Officer
Maine State Police
Department of Public Safety
42 State House Station
45 Commerce Drive
Augusta, Maine 04333-0042
foaa.dps@maine.gov

RE: FOAA request for MSP Det. Benjamin Handzel training records

To Whom it May Concern:

Pursuant to Maine's Freedom of Information Act, 1 M.R.S.A § 401 *et seq*., please kindly provide me with a complete copy Det. Handzel's training records related to cellular device location, including but not limited to Cell Site Location Information and cell phone location tracking.

This office is specifically requesting the dates during which Det. Handzel attended each of the schools/trainings, the location where each school/training occurred, and the name of the instructors and/or organization(s) conducting the training.

Additionally, please indicate whether the he holds any certifications in each of the above-listed subject areas, and, if not currently certified, the date upon which the officer was last certified in each area.

The office will pay any charge set forth in 1 M.R.S. § 408-A(8) for retrieving, compiling, and copying the requested documents. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. As you know, 1 M.R.S. § 408-A(3) requires acknowledgement within 5 working days of the request.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (207) 441-0263 if there are any questions. Thank you for your assistance with this request.

Sincerely,

Isabel Mullin

Isabel Mullin, Esq.
Assistant Defender
Maine Bar No. 5840