



Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Joel A. Merry
207-443-8228

Sagadahoc County Sheriff Joel Merry

October 30, 2023

The tragedy in Lewiston has shaken our community, our state and our country. We would like to offer our deepest sympathies for the lives that were lost, for the people who were hurt and for the families and friends who have been forever affected.

We have received a number of requests from the media requesting documents relating to Robert R. Card II. Under Maine's Freedom of Access Act, we believe that these documents are public, and we are releasing them. The following is an account of our contacts related to Mr. Card.

The Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Office was contacted by members of Robert R. Card's family on May 3, 2023. The family said that Mr. Card's mental health had started to decline in January. They were concerned for his well-being and said that Mr. Card had access to firearms.

After speaking with the family, the Sagadahoc County deputy spoke with representatives the 3rd Battalion 304 Training Group and connected them with Mr. Card's family, who assured our office that they would ensure that Card received medical attention. In addition, Mr. Card's unit sergeant shared his plan to speak with Card.

In September, the Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Office received an email from Mr. Card's Army Reserve unit in Saco, asking for a wellness check on Mr. Card.

A deputy visited Mr. Card's residence on Sept. 15, 2023, and Sept. 16, 2023. Mr. Card was not at his residence during the first visit, and the Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Office sent a File 6 – an attempt to locate teletype – to other law enforcement agencies.

File 6 alerts are common and are issued by law enforcement when they are trying to locate a person. The alert included a warning that Mr. Card was known to be armed and dangerous and included details of his behavior. The alert urged that officers use extreme caution.

On the morning of Sept. 16, a Sagadahoc County deputy and a supporting deputy from Kennebec County returned to the residence. Mr. Card's car was at the location. The deputy repeatedly knocked on the door, did not see Mr. Card or hear any voice. The deputy said he might have heard someone moving around in the trailer. No one answered the door.



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The Sagadahoc County deputy then made contact with Mr. Card's unit commander, who said that Mr. Card no longer had any weapons from the reserve unit. His commander advised that they were trying to get treatment for Mr. Card and that he thought it best to let Card have time to himself.

On Sep. 17, 2023, our deputy made contact with Mr. Card's brother, who told our office that he would work to secure any firearms that Mr. Card had access to. Our deputy also asked that the family call back if they believed that Mr. Card need an evaluation or was a risk to himself or others.

The File 6 alert was canceled on Oct. 18.

In his report, the deputy referred to the "Guard." All contacts with our office were with the Army Reserves, not the National Guard.

We believe that our agency acted appropriately and followed procedures for conducting an attempt to locate and wellness check.

My office will evaluate our policies and procedures for how we conduct wellness checks with the goal of making any improvements that are in the interest of public safety while balancing the rights of individuals.

Our hearts are breaking for the families and friends of the people who were killed and injured.