



Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Follow-Up: Harassment Complaint Submission – Ryan Michaels – August 9, 2025

15 messages

Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sat, Aug 9, 2025 at 11:48 AM

Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com

To: chief@berwickmainepolice.gov, Brendan Reil <breil@berwickmainepolice.gov>, eodess@berwickmainepolice.gov, Jerry Locke <captain@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov, "jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov" <CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov>

Chief Towne, Detective Reil, Officer Odess, Officer Locke,

Key Points – Please Read First:

- I am a 100% disabled veteran who has been alienated from my two sons for over 15 months without contact.
- Today, I submitted a formal harassment complaint packet to Berwick PD with labeled exhibits and a summary sheet — the attached PDF is the exact same packet.
- The responding officer today was Officer Odess, who is documented in my exhibits as having failed to follow through on prior commitments.
- Officer Odess stated he was “told to hand everything in to Captain Locke” — an officer with a documented history of mishandling my cases, including misrepresenting facts in reports.
- Chief Towne committed in writing to meet with me “for sure” this week, yet is now on vacation without contact — continuing a pattern of non-responsiveness.
- The DA’s office is included to ensure visibility into systemic inaction and misrepresentation that is compounding harm to myself and my children.

I am a 100% disabled veteran, and I have not seen or heard from my two sons in over 15 months. This alone is a severe emotional and mental struggle, but it is compounded by the need to navigate and follow up with dozens of agencies — including the Berwick Police Department — only to be met repeatedly with delays, deflections, and inaction. Holding everything together while continuously fighting for truth, transparency, and justice is exhausting, and it is more than any one person should have to do on their own. My disabilities only add to the difficulty of this fight, and yet I am still pressing forward.

Earlier today, August 9, 2025, I submitted a formal harassment complaint packet to the Berwick Police Department. This packet contains professionally labeled exhibits and a detailed summary sheet outlining the relevance of each exhibit to my complaint. For your reference and to ensure all parties have identical records, I have attached the PDF version of the exact materials I handed in.

My original intent was to provide the Police Department with these materials for official filing, then share them with all relevant parties — including the DA’s office — so everyone remains on the same page. Today’s interaction with Berwick PD, however, warrants additional context.

In-Person Interaction – August 9, 2025

The responding officer today was Officer Odess — the same officer who spoke with me by phone on August 2, 2025 (see Exhibit C of the attached packet). At the start of our conversation, I reminded him that he had promised to call me back after that August 2 conversation but never did.

During today’s meeting, Officer Odess stated that he had been “told to hand everything in to Captain Locke.” This statement is concerning given my documented history with Captain Locke, including:

- My email to him before March 11, 2025, warning that a no-trespass order from Biddeford DHHS was unlawful and should not be served to me.
- His decision to serve it anyway, refusing discussion and citing that he “barely skims” my emails.
- A police report I later obtained that was not written by him, contained almost no detail, and misrepresented me as “not cooperative” — a claim contradicted by my own recording of the incident.

Concerns Regarding Chief Towne’s Follow-Through

In a July 31, 2025, email (Exhibit A), Chief Towne stated that he would contact me “by the beginning of the week” and “for sure” meet with me “by the end of the week.” Today, Officer Odess explained that Chief Towne is currently on vacation.

If this vacation was planned in advance, it is unclear why such a definitive commitment to meet with me this week was made. If it was unplanned, I was still not contacted as promised. Either way, this continues a larger pattern of non-responsiveness and failure to follow through on commitments, which is documented across multiple exhibits in my packet.

Broader Concerns

This interaction — and the continued delays, deflections, and lack of follow-through — fit into a long-standing pattern with Berwick PD that has resulted in ongoing harm to myself and my two sons. The DA’s office has already been included on prior communications to ensure visibility into these matters.

It is imperative that this complaint and its exhibits be reviewed in full, and that these patterns of inaction and misrepresentation be addressed.

Requested Action

- Please acknowledge receipt of this email and the attached packet.
- Confirm that the materials I submitted today have been entered into official records and will be reviewed.
- Provide an anticipated timeline for any follow-up steps.

I will continue to document and follow up on all related matters to ensure full accountability.

***Request*:** Please ensure that this email, with its attached PDF, is added in full to the harassment complaint report I filed in person today, August 9, 2025, with Officer Odess.

Sincerely,
Ryan Michaels
207 216 7955

 **Full report and exhibits handed to BPD on 8-9-25.pdf**
9981K

Timothy Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>

Mon, Aug 11, 2025 at 1:49 PM

To: "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Cc: Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov>, Jerry Locke <captain@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Denise Dunn <ddunn@berwickmainepolice.gov>

Good afternoon Mr. Michaels,

I would be happy to meet with you here at the Berwick Police Department on Tuesday, August 19th at 10:00 AM to listen to your concerns. It was my intent to meet with you last week, however, as you know, that did not happen. Please let me know if you will be able to attend.

Respectfully,

Chief Towne

From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, August 9, 2025 11:48 AM

To: Timothy Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>; Brendan Reil <breil@berwickmainepolice.gov>; Edison Odess <eodess@berwickmainepolice.gov>; Jerry Locke <captain@berwickmainepolice.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>; kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov <kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov>; jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov <jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov>; jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov <jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov>; jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov <jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov>; CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov <CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov>

Subject: Follow-Up: Harassment Complaint Submission – Ryan Michaels – August 9, 2025

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Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Mon, Aug 11, 2025 at 6:20 PM

Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com

To: Timothy Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>

Cc: Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov>, Jerry Locke <captain@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Denise Dunn <ddunn@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Brendan Reil <breil@berwickmainepolice.gov>, eodess@berwickmainepolice.gov, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov, "jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov" <CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov>

Subject: RE: Follow-Up: Harassment Complaint Submission – Meeting Request

Chief Towne,

Thank you for your reply and for offering to meet on August 19th at 10:00 AM.

I also notice you have now cc'd the town manager, which I fully welcome. I am 100% in favor of having as many relevant people involved as possible, and I believe transparency and accuracy are in everyone's best interest. Since the town manager is now part of this conversation, I would like to formally request that he join this same meeting on August 19th.

The last time I spoke with the town manager, it was just before he was going on vacation. At that time, he told me he would follow up with me afterwards. That follow-up never happened, despite my reaching out. This has unfortunately been consistent with what I have experienced across multiple interactions — commitments made but not honored, followed by long periods of non-responsiveness.

Having both of you in the same meeting would allow us to address these concerns directly, ensure all parties have the same information, and avoid any further miscommunication or delays. My goal is, and has always been, to resolve these matters truthfully, transparently, and efficiently.

Please confirm if this joint meeting can be arranged for August 19th at the same time you have proposed.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels

[Quoted text hidden]

Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov>

Tue, Aug 12, 2025 at 11:49 AM

To: "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>, Timothy Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>

Cc: Jerry Locke <captain@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Denise Dunn <ddunn@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Brendan Reil <breil@berwickmainepolice.gov>, "eodess@berwickmainepolice.gov" <eodess@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, "kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov" <kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov" <CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov>

Good morning. I can not join on the 19th.

Thank you

Book time to meet with me

Please note my email address has changed to townmanager@berwickmaine.gov

Arthur Capello

Town Manager

Office Hours: Mon-Thur 8am to 6pm

(207) 698-1101 ext. 111

townmanager@berwickmaine.gov



NOTICE: Under Maine's Freedom of Access ("Right-to-Know") law, documents - including email - in public officials' possession of city business are classified as public records. This means if anyone asks to see it, we are required to provide it. There are very few exceptions. We welcome citizen comments and want to hear from our residents, but please remember that what you write in an email is not private and could appear in the local newspaper.

[Quoted text hidden]

Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Tue, Aug 12, 2025 at 11:51 AM

Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com

To: Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov>

Cc: Timothy Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Jerry Locke <captain@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Denise Dunn <ddunn@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Brendan Reil <breil@berwickmainepolice.gov>, eodess@berwickmainepolice.gov, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov, jdgosselein@yorkcountymaine.gov, jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov, jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov, CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov

Please coordinate with chief on a time where both of you can meet with me at the same time.

I'll be waiting to hear from you..

Ryan

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9K

Timothy Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>

Tue, Aug 12, 2025 at 2:26 PM

To: Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov>, "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Cc: Jerry Locke <captain@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Denise Dunn <ddunn@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Brendan Reil <breil@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Edison Odess <eodess@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, "kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov" <kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov" <CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov>

Good-afternoon,

I will still hold Tuesday, August 19th at 10 AM here at the Berwick Police Department open for Mr. Ryan Michaels.

Respectfully,

Chief Towne

From: Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2025 11:49 AM

To: rtgmich@gmail.com <rtgmich@gmail.com>; Timothy Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>

Cc: Jerry Locke <captain@berwickmainepolice.gov>; Denise Dunn <ddunn@berwickmainepolice.gov>; Brendan Reil <breil@berwickmainepolice.gov>; Edison Odess <eodess@berwickmainepolice.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>; kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov <kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov>; jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov <jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov>; jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov <jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov>; jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov <jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov>; CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov <CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov>

Subject: RE: Follow-Up: Harassment Complaint Submission – Ryan Michaels – August 9, 2025

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Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov>

Tue, Aug 12, 2025 at 2:27 PM

To: Timothy Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>, "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Cc: Jerry Locke <captain@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Denise Dunn <ddunn@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Brendan Reil <breil@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Edison Odess <eodess@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, "kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov" <kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov" <CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov>

Sounds great, thank you!

Thank you

Book time to meet with me

Please note my email address has changed to townmanager@berwickmaine.gov

Arthur Capello

Town Manager

Office Hours: Mon-Thur 8am to 6pm

(207) 698-1101 ext. 111

townmanager@berwickmaine.gov



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Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Tue, Aug 12, 2025 at 2:32 PM

Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com

To: Timothy Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>

Cc: Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov>, Jerry Locke <captain@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Denise Dunn <ddunn@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Brendan Reil <breil@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Edison Odess <eodess@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov, jdgosselein@yorkcountymaine.gov, jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov, jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov, CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov

Attached is an image showing that I have a VA appointment at the exact same time — something I was unaware of when scheduling. I would have apologized for that oversight, but at this point, that's no longer the main issue.

I had specifically requested to meet with both you and the Town Manager together, so there's no need to keep the current time slot open. What needs to happen now is for you to coordinate with your boss, the Town Manager, and set a time that works for both of you to meet with me simultaneously.

To avoid any misinterpretation, let me be clear: I want to meet with you and Arthur at the same time.

Thank you,

Ryan

[< Health](#)

VA

Appointments

Upcoming

Past

Here are your appointments. This list includes appointments you've requested but not yet confirmed.

August 2025

Tuesday, August 19, 2025

10:00 AM EDT

Confirmed



At Somersworth VA Clinic



Wednesday, August 27, 2025

Wednesday, August 27, 2025

11:45 AM EDT

Confirmed



At Somersworth VA Clinic



Home



Health



Benefits



Payments

Ps. Now, and additional point of concern, would be officer whispers conversation with me today that led to him hanging up on me. Im writing this here for documentation sake, not to try and add confusion.

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image001.png
9K

Denise Dunn <ddunn@berwickmainepolice.gov>
To: "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Wed, Aug 13, 2025 at 9:30 AM

Denise Dunn

Administrative Assistant

Berwick Police Department

PO Box 644, [20 Wilson Street](#)

[Berwick, ME 03901](#)

207-698-1136

NOTE: New email address of ddunn@berwickmainepolice.gov

From: Timothy Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 9:29 AM
To: Denise Dunn <ddunn@berwickmainepolice.gov>
Subject: Re: Follow-Up: Harassment Complaint Submission – Ryan Michaels – August 9, 2025

Mr. Michaels,

I will hold that date and time open in the event something changes.

Chief Towne

From: Denise Dunn <ddunn@berwickmainepolice.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 9:23 AM
To: Timothy Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>
Subject: FW: Follow-Up: Harassment Complaint Submission – Ryan Michaels – August 9, 2025

Denise Dunn
Administrative Assistant
Berwick Police Department
PO Box 644, [20 Wilson Street](#)
[Berwick, ME 03901](#)
207-698-1136

NOTE: New email address of ddunn@berwickmainepolice.gov

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Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com> Wed, Aug 13, 2025 at 9:49 AM
Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com
To: Denise Dunn <ddunn@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov>, Jerry Locke <captain@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Brendan Reil <breil@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Edison Odess <eodess@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov, jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov, jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov, jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov, CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov, Timothy Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>

Subject: RE: Follow-Up: Harassment Complaint Submission – Meeting Coordination

Denise,

I appreciate you forwarding this message, but I have to ask: why is Chief Towne now sending his communication to you so you can send it to me? This feels like yet another layer of unnecessary bureaucracy that only pushes us further from truth and transparency. If the Chief has something to say to me, there is no reason it cannot be sent directly.

On top of that, you forwarded his message without a single word of explanation. That's not just unhelpful — it's lazy. It shows a lack of basic courtesy and reinforces what I have been experiencing from this leadership: no respect for my time, my energy, or the things I am very clearly asking for.

More importantly, this latest message from the Chief is just another example of my direct, reasonable request being ignored. I have now stated **twice** that the August 19th date and time does not work — first, because I have a VA appointment at that exact time, and second, because Arthur already said he cannot attend. The entire point of this meeting is to speak with **both** the Town Manager and the Chief **together**. Holding open a date that does not work for me and that Arthur has already declined is not progress — it is willful disregard for what I have clearly stated.

Let me make this absolutely clear: I am requesting — and will only accept — a meeting time that works for **both** the Town Manager and the Chief so the **three of us** can meet at the same time. I will not accept any other arrangement.

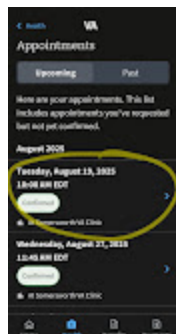
I expect a direct and prompt response from both Chief Towne and Arthur Capello with a date and time that works for the both of them. This is a simple, reasonable request and continued delay or sidestepping is unacceptable.

p.s. when replying, please "reply all". otherwise when I go to add everyone back on it will just add to confusion. I wish for everything to be seen by everyone. Thank you.

Ryan Michaels

[Quoted text hidden]

2 attachments



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367K



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9K

Denise Dunn <ddunn@berwickmainepolice.gov>

Wed, Aug 13, 2025 at 9:56 AM

To: "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>, Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov>, Jerry Locke <captain@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Brendan Reil <breil@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Edison Odess <eodess@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, "kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov" <kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov" <CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov>, Timothy Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>

You email was in junk mail and I had to forward to the Chief as he didn't receive it. When he replied it was to my email by mistake. Sorry!

From now on I will let the Chief handle his emails and if he doesn't receive on from you, then I guess you won't get a response. I was just trying to help.

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Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov>

Wed, Aug 13, 2025 at 9:58 AM

To: "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>, Denise Dunn <ddunn@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Jerry Locke <captain@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Brendan Reil <breil@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Edison Odess <eodess@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, "kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov" <kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov" <CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov>, Timothy Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>

Good morning. I have complete confidence in the Chief meeting without me present. If you want me there, we are looking at sometime in September.

I am away at a conference the rest of this week.

Thank you.

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 9:49:28 AM

To: Denise Dunn <ddunn@berwickmainepolice.gov>; Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov>; Jerry Locke <captain@berwickmainepolice.gov>; Brendan Reil <breil@berwickmainepolice.gov>; Edison Odess <eodess@berwickmainepolice.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>; kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov <kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov>; jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov <jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov>; jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov <jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov>; jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov <jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov>; CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov <CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov>; Timothy Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>

Subject: Re: FW: Follow-Up: Harassment Complaint Submission – Ryan Michaels – August 9, 2025

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Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Wed, Aug 13, 2025 at 10:04 AM

Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com

To: Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov>

Cc: Denise Dunn <ddunn@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Jerry Locke <captain@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Brendan Reil <breil@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Edison Odess <eodess@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, "kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov" <kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov>,

"jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov" <CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov>, Timothy Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>

Denise,

I understand you were trying to help by forwarding my email after it went to the Chief's junk folder, and I acknowledge that the Chief's reply to you may have been a mistake. That said, I hope you can also understand why my reaction was frustrated. Given the long history of delays, sidestepping, and selective engagement from town leadership, even small missteps or extra layers of communication come across as part of the same ongoing pattern. Over time, this has made it harder to see these moments in isolation — they all feed into the broader experience of my requests not being respected or acted on directly. (I , from the bottom of my heart, thank you for listening to my request and "replying all". I have asked this same thing in the past to others and they ignored me. You didn't. I see that and I appreciate it. <3)

Arthur,

With respect, your latest reply only reinforces that pattern. I have been absolutely clear — repeatedly — that the only meeting I am requesting is with **both** you and Chief Towne present at the same time. There are no exceptions to this request. Suggesting the Chief meet without you, or framing the matter as if I have not already stated my position multiple times, disregards what I have plainly said.

Whether or not you have "complete confidence" in the Chief is irrelevant. This is not about internal trust between you; it is about addressing the issues I've raised with **both of you in the room** so there is no miscommunication, no selective interpretation, and no further delay.

I will not accept a meeting with only one of you present. Please coordinate a time that works for **both** you and Chief Towne so we can meet together. This request is simple, reasonable, and has already been made multiple times. Continuing to avoid it undermines any claim of good faith engagement.

I expect a direct response from both of you with a proposed time that meets these criteria.

Ryan Michaels

[Quoted text hidden]

Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Thu, Aug 21, 2025 at 8:36 AM

Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com

To: Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov>

Cc: Denise Dunn <ddunn@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Jerry Locke <captain@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Brendan Reil <breil@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Edison Odess <eodess@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, "kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov" <kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov" <CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov>, Timothy Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>

Subject: Urgent – Meeting Coordination & Additional Incident

Chief Towne, Arthur —

It has now been over a week since I was told September would be the earliest we could meet, yet no date has been confirmed. This continued lack of follow-through is unacceptable, and I am respectfully demanding a firm date for a joint meeting by the end of this week.

On **August 12th**, I made it absolutely clear in writing that I wanted to meet with both of you together. That request has never changed and has been repeated multiple times.

I could have, at that time, raised another serious issue that arose the very same day, but I deliberately chose not to. I wanted to give this process a fair chance—staying focused on one matter in good faith and trusting that you would do the same.

However, that same day I also called in to file an **official harassment complaint**—one that still has not been taken, not for lack of effort on my part, but because your department has refused to act. My truck was in the shop, leaving me

stranded at home, and I explained this to dispatch. I expected an officer to be sent to take my statement. Instead, I received a call from Officer Schiessler, who from the outset made no genuine effort to help—offering excuses for why he couldn't meet, and putting the responsibility back on me to come into the station despite knowing I had no transportation. The call ended with him hanging up on me.

Immediately after, I called dispatch back to ensure it was noted that Officer Schiessler had hung up on me, and I requested that another officer be sent. I was told no one else was on duty at that moment, but that the next available officer would be contacted to call me. That call never came. To this day—**nine days later**—no one has followed up, no one has come to my home, and no one has called me back.

Days later, I went to the Berwick Police Department in person, hoping to speak with someone directly. When I asked to see the Chief, Denise told me he wasn't available. I reminded her that I was still waiting on a date for the meeting I had requested with both of you, as clearly stated in this email chain. Instead of acknowledging that no date had ever been provided, she told me it was my "perception" that no date had been agreed upon—as if I had already received one.

At that point, it became clear she was no longer acting neutrally and was viewing me as a problem rather than someone seeking help. When I explained that I was in an extremely difficult position, had not seen my children in **15 months**, and that these additional obstacles were making things worse, she deflected responsibility entirely and told me to consider whose fault it was that I wasn't seeing my children.

Then, she went even further—asserting that I wasn't shot on **February 23rd, 2023**, claiming, *"I saw the video."*

Given the seriousness of that statement, I am requesting a **formal explanation** as to:

1. Why Denise had access to this video in the first place,
2. Who authorized her to view it, and
3. What policy permits a receptionist to access evidence footage and then use it to make definitive statements contradicting documented medical records.

Evidence from my February 23, 2023 incident should only be viewed by individuals with a legitimate investigative or legal reason, and such access should be logged. I expect a clear answer regarding when she accessed this footage, under whose direction, and for what purpose. This is not a trivial matter—improper access or misuse of evidence is a breach of professional and procedural standards, and it raises serious concerns about bias, confidentiality, and the integrity of your department's processes.

This ongoing pattern—bad faith, dismissiveness, judgment, and lack of follow-through—underscores exactly why I have been insisting on a meeting with both of you present at the same time.

I am again requesting that you provide me with a **firm date and time in September when both of you are available to meet together**, and I expect that date to be confirmed **no later than the end of this week**.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels

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Ryan Michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 22, 2025 at 1:18 PM

Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com

To: Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov>

Cc: Denise Dunn <ddunn@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Brendan Reil <breil@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Edison Odess <eodess@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, "kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov" <kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov" <CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov>, Timothy Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Ann.Fredericks@legislature.maine.gov, "Rafferty, Joe" <Joe.Rafferty@legislature.maine.gov>, Thomas.Lavigne@legislature.maine.gov

Subject: Follow-Up – Continued Retaliation, FOAA Denial, and Formal Request Filed

Chief Towne, Town Manager Capello, Denise Dunn, and all copied recipients,

I am following up on my email from yesterday (attached below) because another serious incident occurred today that directly relates to the concerns I raised about bad faith, retaliation, and lack of follow-through.

This morning, I went to Berwick Police Department to request a Freedom of Access Act (FOAA) form — the exact same form Denise Dunn provided me last month — so I could obtain police reports covering from the date of my last request through today. My purpose was clear: to determine whether the recent complaints I have made have actually been entered as directed, or if they are once again being ignored.

Instead of providing the form, **Denise Dunn refused**, telling me I “already have everything” and, most concerningly, stating that because I made a complaint about Chief Towne, I must now go through Town Manager Arthur Capello for “everything.” These are **her exact words, not mine**, and they are captured on video from today’s visit. She further stated she “doesn’t have to” give me the form.

This is not just unprofessional — it appears to be **clear retaliation** for having made a lawful complaint, and a direct obstruction of my right under Maine FOAA and the Constitution to request public records without undue interference.

As a result, I have now **formally submitted a FOAA request** via email to Denise Dunn, Town Manager Arthur Capello, and Chief Timothy Towne, with the Maine Public Access Ombudsman copied. I am attaching a PDF of that request for your reference. This request includes:

- All police reports from July 1, 2025 to August 22, 2025;
- One year of emails between Chief Towne and Town Manager Capello referencing me or my complaints;
- One year of emails between Denise Dunn and Chief Towne referencing me or my complaints;
- All records and authorizations showing Denise Dunn’s access to the February 23, 2023 evidence video;
- All communications instructing Denise Dunn not to provide me with information and to direct all matters to the Town Manager.

Between this incident today, my unanswered email from yesterday, my unanswered harassment complaint from over 10 days ago, and the repeated pattern of deflection and gatekeeping I’ve described, it is undeniable that:

- I am being **ignored** at every turn;
- Every attempt I make to resolve issues is met with another **closed door**;
- No one here is acting in **good faith**; and
- I have **receipts and documentation** — including email records, dated communications, and video evidence — proving each instance.

This cannot continue. I expect acknowledgement of today’s events, a commitment to stop this retaliatory behavior, and concrete action to address the outstanding issues I have been raising — not just more silence.

I have been more than patient and more than clear. I am a 100% disabled veteran, currently unemployed, who has not seen his children in over 15 months. I should not have to fight this hard just to have my lawful rights respected.

I urge you to take this request seriously and schedule a meeting as soon as possible. I have been consistently asking for several weeks to meet with both Chief Towne and Town Manager Capello together, and it is long past time for that to happen. This situation is escalating unnecessarily, and there is no valid reason for further delay.

Ryan Michaels

[Attachment: FOAA Request – 8-22-25.pdf]

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8-22-25 Gmail - Maine Freedom of Access Act (FOAA), 1 M.R.S. §§ 400–414.pdf

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