

Brett P. Smiley
Mayor

Colonel Oscar L. Perez
Chief of Police



Department of Public Safety, Police Department
"Building Pride in Providence"

February 25, 2025

The Honorable Robert Craven
House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith St
Providence RI, 02903

Dear Chairman Craven and Honorable Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of **House Bill 5438**, RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE — SEARCH WARRANTS. If passed, this legislation would establish a clear and reasonable timeframe for the validity of search warrants involving tracking devices, while also providing a structured process for extending that timeframe when there is good cause.

House Bill 5438 would extend the duration for which tracking device warrants remain valid, significantly enhancing law enforcement's ability to conduct comprehensive investigations. This is especially important in complex cases, such as those involving organized crime, narcotics trafficking, fugitives, and other serious public safety threats. Drug trafficking operations, for example, often span multiple individuals, locations, and jurisdictions, making extended surveillance essential to uncover key players and distribution networks. A longer timeframe will not only help to reduce administrative burdens for both law enforcement and the courts, but also ensure that necessary judicial oversight is maintained.

By extending the time limit for tracking devices, this bill aligns with the evolving demands of modern investigative practices, allowing law enforcement to effectively monitor suspects without unnecessary interruptions. The proposed legislation promises to improve both the efficiency and consistency of investigative efforts, ultimately enhancing public safety and contributing to a more effective criminal justice system.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to vote in favor of **House Bill 5438**.

Sincerely,

Oscar L. Perez
Colonel
Chief of Police