



STATE OF MAINE
Department of Public Safety
Maine State Police
42 State House Station
Augusta, Maine
04333-0042

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR
ANN H. JORDAN
COMMISSIONER

COL. PATRICK J. FLEMING
CHIEF
LT. COL. ROBERT A. WILLIAMS
DEPUTY CHIEF

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Neal Allen
Greater Portland Council of Governments
233 Oxford St
Portland ME 04101-3033

As Colonel of the Maine State Police, I strongly support the creation of a regional forensics laboratory in the Greater Portland area. It is of fundamental importance to law enforcement and public safety that evidence be processed and analyzed quickly and accurately.

Local law enforcement personnel collect and process crime scene evidence for submission to the State Police Crime Lab. Scientists and technicians in Augusta employ some of the most state-of-the-art equipment and instrumentation available to the scientific community to analyze evidence submitted by local law enforcement. The quality and amount of submitted evidence varies by community. This project will contribute to the effectiveness of the State Police Crime Lab by increasing the quality of evidence sent to Augusta and elevating the training and qualifications of evidence technicians in the participating communities.

The State Police Crime Lab has the capacity to analyze evidence submitted by local agencies. Expedient submission of properly collected and processed evidence will increase the capability of law enforcement to investigate crimes and identify suspects.

It is in the best interests of all agencies charged with the maintenance of public safety to work together to identify suspects and properly prepare criminal cases for prosecution. The Maine State Police Crime Lab looks forward to continued cooperation and collaboration with the agencies participating in the regional crime lab effort.

Sincerely,

Colonel Patrick J. Fleming

Colonel Patrick J. Fleming
Maine State Police

INTEGRITY * FAIRNESS * COMPASSION * EXCELLENCE

Offices located at: Central Maine Commerce Center, 45 Commerce Dr., Ste. 1, Augusta, ME 04333-0042
(207) 624-7200 (Voice) (207) 287-3659 (TDD) (207) 287-3042 (Fax)