Shannon,

I am writing to recommend that Gov. McAuliffe veto SB 1102, which would require the release of investigation files for unattended deaths. I, and my fellow chiefs, believe that this would create bad public policy by allowing sensitive information to released in a public manner. In Roanoke County, our investigators meet with families who have questions, concerns, or are just looking for closure. Depending on their wishes, we review all aspects of the investigation, including physical evidence, with them and explain our findings. We do not, however, provide them copies of any documents. I believe that these files, like all criminal investigations, should remain confidential outside of any legal proceedings that may result from an incident.

Thanks in advance for you consideration.

Howard B. Hall

Chief of Police Roanoke County Police Department 5925 Cove Road Roanoke, VA 24019 (540) 777-8601