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City urged to not renew license plate reader system



Framingham resident Kate Merritt-O'Toole leads a local group that hopes to convince the Police Department not to renew a contract it has with Flock Safety. ART ILLMAN/DAILY NEWS AND WICKED LOCAL STAFF

Norman Miller
The MetroWest Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK

The city Police Department has until June 30 to decide whether it will renew its contract with Flock Safety, a license plate reader system that many argue

works like a type of "Big Brother" by monitoring people and possibly being used by federal immigration officials.

A group of residents calling themselves "Framingham Fights Back" have started a grassroots effort to convince police officials against renewing the contract.

"I don't think a lot of people out there in Framingham, or other communities, realize how much surveillance is really going on out there," said Kate Merritt-O'Toole, head of Framingham Fights Back. "The Police

See **READER**, Page 2A



The funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Mary Church in Franklin for Uxbridge Police Officer Stephen LaPorta. RICK CINCLAIR/TELEGRAM & GAZETTE

Law seeks to help LaPorta's family

Margie Cullen
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW ENGLAND

Massachusetts lawmakers are considering a bill that would promote deceased Uxbridge police officer Stephen LaPorta in a move to both honor him and support his family.

LaPorta died Jan. 7 in a crash that occurred while he was assisting a motorist on an icy stretch of Route 146. He left behind his wife, Shannon LaPorta, and his young son, Matthew.

The bill, filed by Sen. Ryan Fattman, R-Webster, would posthumously promote LaPorta to the rank of sergeant so that his surviving spouse would receive a higher retirement benefit.

Fattman, Rep. Joe McKenna, R-Webster, and MassCOP Labor Relations Manager Mike Pereira testified in front of the Joint Committee on Public Service in support of the bill June 3.

"Day in and day out they don't know what they're walking into and they don't know whether they'll make it home from their shift," McKenna

See **LAW**, Page 2A

Framingham District Court has acting clerk-magistrate

Norman Miller
The MetroWest Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Framingham District Court has a new acting clerk-magistrate.

Chief Justice of the District Court Stacey Fortes has appointed Worcester Dis-

trict Court Assistant Clerk-Magistrate Michael Prosser as acting clerk-magistrate in Framingham District Court. Prosser steps in for Clerk-Magistrate Robert Jubinville, who has taken a leave of absence after announcing his intention to run for Norfolk County district attorney.

Current Norfolk DA Michael Morrissey

announced in January that he would not seek reelection. He has held the position since 2011.

Prosser has been with the Massachusetts Trial Courts for almost 37 years. Most recently, he has been assistant clerk-magistrate in Worcester District Court; he previously served as acting clerk-magistrate

in Uxbridge District Court.

Jubinville has been clerk-magistrate in Framingham since late 2022.

Clerk-magistrates hold hearings for criminal complaints, which are often minor crimes that do not involve arrests. The

See **COURT**, Page 2A



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