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ATTORNEY GENERAL



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September 8, 2020

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Chief Paul Fenton
Cape Elizabeth Police Department
325 Ocean House Road
Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107

RE: State of Maine vs. Kenneth Jules LaFlamme
Cumberland County Unified Criminal Court Doc. No. CR-19-6127
Criminal Forfeiture
Required Vote of Municipal Officers/Approval of Transfer of Forfeiture Assets

Dear Chief Fenton:

Enclosed please find a draft Approval form for submission to the municipal officers.

Please inform the municipal officers that:

- A. 15 M.R.S.A. §5824(3) requires that, before any forfeitable item may be transferred to a State Agency, County or Municipality, the municipal legislative body must publicly vote to accept the item(s) **if subsequently ordered forfeited by the Court;**
- B. Under Rules issued by the Department of the Attorney General, a public vote must be made on each forfeiture "approval" and a "continuing resolution" of approval cannot be accepted;
- C. As with all forfeitures, an approval of a transfer by the municipal legislative body does not guarantee either that the Defendant(s) *In Rem* will in fact be forfeited or, if forfeited, that the Court will order the item(s) transferred to the approving Department, Agency, County or Municipality. The municipal legislative body's approval only signifies that, if the Defendant(s) *In Rem* are in fact ordered forfeited and, if the Attorney General and the Court agree to a transfer of all or part of the Defendant(s) *In Rem* to a Department, Agency, County or Municipality based upon the "*substantial contribution*" of that Department, Agency, County or Municipality, then that entity is in fact, willing to accept the Defendant(s) *In Rem* or portions thereof. In order to streamline what is otherwise a cumbersome forfeiture process, it is our practice to seek State, county or municipal approval in anticipation of the final order of forfeiture. However, final forfeiture is not guaranteed and both the municipal legislative body and the law

enforcement agency involved are **cautioned** that they **should not encumber** funds or property until a Final Order granting them lawful title to the property is delivered to them;

D. Under the provisions of the Forfeiture Statute, if the municipal legislative body fails to approve a transfer in a timely manner, any forfeited items shall be transferred to the State of Maine General Fund.

Assuming your municipal legislative body does grant its approval, kindly see to it that the accompanying form is signed by the appropriate person and is "embossed" with the seal of the municipality. Then, please return the **original** to me for filing, and retain a copy for your records.

My sincere thanks for your attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Johanna Gauvreau for".

Johanna Gauvreau
Assistant Attorney General
CRIMINAL DIVISION

Enclosure

STATE OF MAINE
Cumberland, ss

UNIFIED CRIMINAL COURT
Docket No. CR-19-6127

State of Maine

v.

Kenneth Jules LaFlamme,
Defendant;

And

\$2,000.00 U.S. Currency,
Defendant(s) In Rem

}
}
}
}
}
}
}
}

Municipality of Cape Elizabeth
Approval of Transfer
15 M.R.S.A. §5824(3) & §5822(4)(A)

NOW COMES the municipality of Cape Elizabeth, Maine, by and through its municipal officers, and does hereby grant approval pursuant to 15 M.R.S.A. § 5824(3) & §5826(6) to the transfer of the above captioned Defendant(s) In Rem, or any portion thereof, on the grounds that the Cape Elizabeth Police Department did make a substantial contribution to the investigation of this or a related criminal case.

WHEREFORE, the municipality of Cape Elizabeth, Maine does hereby approve of the transfer of the Defendant(s) In Rem, or any portion thereof, pursuant to 15 M.R.S.A. § 5824(3) & §5826(6) by vote of the Cape Elizabeth municipal legislative body on or about _____.

Dated: _____

Municipal Officer
Cape Elizabeth, Maine
(Impress municipal legislative body seal here)