



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Katrina Shankland
71st ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

July 24, 2017

Secretary Jon Litscher
Department of Corrections
3099 East Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53704

Dear Secretary Litscher:

I'm writing to request information about the department's use of monitoring equipment for Sexually Violent Persons (SVPs) following an incident last night in the Town of Alban in Portage County. According to news reports, at 11:23 p.m. on July 23, 2017, the Portage County Sheriff's Office was notified that SVP Peter Yogerst was in violation of the terms of his supervision and/or electronic monitoring. It was later determined that this alert was triggered by a malfunction of Mr. Yogerst's electronic monitor. Mr. Yogerst is being held in the Portage County Jail pending the replacement of this equipment.

This incident raised a number of concerns for me and for the residents of the Town of Alban, who had already flagged similar concerns following two SVP placements in their community earlier this year. I am therefore writing to request more information on the following:

- How often does electronic monitoring equipment generally need to be replaced?
- What quality assurance measures does the department utilize to ensure that the electronic monitoring device for an individual on supervised release is fully functional over time?
- If electronic monitoring equipment fails, what back-up systems does the department have in place to ensure that the individual is still subject to some level of monitoring?
- In regards to the specific incident involving Mr. Yogerst, please provide additional details relating to the device malfunction, including: how the malfunction occurred; the department's response to the malfunction; how frequently malfunctions of electronic monitoring devices occur; and what steps the department will take to ensure that the new device assigned to Mr. Yogerst is in good working condition.
- Do you have any suggestions as to how this process can be improved in the future? I would welcome the opportunity to work with you to ensure the safety and security of the community.

Thank you for your attention to my request and I look forward to your response. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Respectfully,

Katrina Shankland
State Representative
71st Assembly District