



## BRISTOL POLICE DEPARTMENT

**James P. McIntire, Chief of Police**

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May 12, 2022

Captain Al Graton  
Laconia Police Department  
126 New Salem St.  
Laconia, NH 03246

Dear Captain Graton,

I wanted to thank you and the members of the Belknap Regional Accident Investigation Team for their assistance on April 5, 2022.

As you are aware, there was a serious head on motor vehicle crash in the Town of Bristol. Three Bristol officers responded, including myself. The debris and damage were heavy, and we could not immediately determine which vehicle or what had caused the crash. Both operators were transported to hospitals, one by ambulance to Concord Hospital and one by helicopter to Dartmouth Hitchcock Medica Center. Uncertain whether the accident would become a fatal, I was in need of technical assistance with determining who may be at fault.

Sheriff William Wright was in New Hampton at the time of the call and came to assist with traffic. He suggested that I request BRAIT and inquire if they would be willing to respond to assist. Without hesitation, a contingent of 5 to 6 officers assigned to the team arrived very quickly. They were able to evaluate the scene and determine which vehicle was at fault.

I have covered many accidents in my career, however, I could not and would not have been able to determine who was the at fault driver in this case. Witnesses were not consistent with their descriptions and the debris and road marks were not easily understood to the untrained.

I commend the professionalism and knowledgeable members of the team who were able to put the puzzle together. I am impressed by the mapping technology and the arial drones that the team was able to utilize.

In closing, I appreciate your team's willingness to assist, and I am grateful that this valuable resource was made available to the Town of Bristol.

Respectfully,

Chief James P. McIntire

*"Others before Ourselves."*