



FOLLOW UP STATEMENT ON PATUXENT COMMONS
By the Autism Society of Maryland
March 6, 2026

Like so many in our community, we at the Autism Society of Maryland have been reeling in the aftermath of the tragic death of Alex LaMorie early Sunday morning at Patuxent Commons following a wellness check by the Howard County Police Department. Since the incident, we have been working closely with our partners at Mission First Housing Group to support residents, Alex's family, and the Patuxent Commons community during this incredibly difficult time.

This is a profoundly tragic event. Over the past 12 years, the Autism Society worked with many partners — community members, government officials, funders, supporters, and housing experts — to conceive, build, and open Patuxent Commons last fall. The vision of an inclusive community that welcomes adults with disabilities alongside seniors, families, and other residents in a mostly affordable apartment building is unique and has drawn national attention for its forward-thinking approach to community living.

We support a full and transparent investigation by the Maryland Attorney General's Independent Investigations Division. Any questions regarding the incident itself should be directed to them.

Our immediate focus, and that of the Patuxent Commons team, is supporting Alex's family, the residents of Patuxent Commons and their families. Additional staff from both Patuxent Commons and the Autism Society of Maryland have been onsite, along with grief counselors, to provide support during this time.

While we did not know Alex personally, we do know he was far more than his disability. He was a beloved son, a highly intelligent advocate, and a valued member of his community. We honor his memory and contributions with dignity and respect.

In the wake of this tragedy, we also recognize the deep anxiety and concern being felt across the disability community. In Maryland — where so much effort, time, funding, and legislation have been devoted to improving training and understanding around disability and mental health, parents, self-advocates, and families are asking: How could this happen? Will my loved one be safe? Where did the system fail Alex? What training do law enforcement officers have regarding mental health and disabilities? Why wasn't a crisis team present to help de-escalate the situation?

We are hearing from parents and self-advocates who are frightened, anxious, and angry. We share in that devastation. We have also communicated directly with law enforcement to express our concern that decades of effort to build training, trust, and mutual understanding appear to have been deeply shaken by this event.



At the same time, we have received many messages of support from across the community — including offers of resources, assistance for Alex’s family, and questions about how people can help. These expressions of care and solidarity give us hope for the days ahead.

There has been significant media coverage and social media discussion surrounding this tragedy. Unfortunately, not all reporting and commentary have reflected accurate information. We will encourage accurate reporting, but encourage the public to rely on verified updates from official sources as the investigation proceeds.

We’ve compiled a list of Crisis and Grief Resources that may be helpful to individuals and families during this difficult time. That is available on our website or from any member of our team. We have additional resources on the Safety page of our website.

For anyone experiencing heightened anxiety or distress, we encourage you to reach out to our team, connect with your local mental health provider, or call **988**, the National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

Patuxent Commons was created to provide safe, affordable, and inclusive housing rooted in community for adults with disabilities, older adults, and families. That mission remains unchanged. The Autism Society of Maryland is committed to understanding what occurred, supporting those affected, and working toward a path forward once the investigation is complete.

If we can be of assistance, or if you would like to share your thoughts or concerns, please feel free to reach out to us.

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