



**Statement by the Autism Society of Maryland  
on the Release of the Police Video in the Fatal Shooting of Alex LaMorie  
March 30, 2026**

The Autism Society of Maryland and the communities we serve continue to grieve the shocking, senseless death of Alex LaMorie.

With today's release of the officer body camera footage, it is clear that Alex was experiencing a mental health crisis that did not have to end with his death.

We may not have answers until the Attorney General's investigation is complete, but the video shows that the responding police officers were not equipped with the training or non-lethal options to respond appropriately to Alex's needs, and a call for help ended in tragedy.

Today our focus remains on supporting Alex's family during this time of unimaginable grief and the autism community as we all navigate both this tragic loss and their apprehension surrounding interactions with law enforcement.

The Autism Society of Maryland and the other organizations who support people with autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities in Howard County have historically had a collaborative relationship with the police. That is why Alex's death has shaken our community.

While we cannot bring Alex back, we will work to ensure he did not die in vain. Government and private agencies responsible for protecting and serving the public, especially individuals with autism, must work together to ensure that this tragedy leads to meaningful change. We have already begun working with the Office of the Howard County Executive, and expect our work together to have a positive impact on the community we serve.

We call for Howard County and the State of Maryland to conduct a thorough, independent root cause analysis to examine what failures—whether in training, communication, equipment or procedure—contributed to this outcome. This process must be transparent, and its findings must be shared publicly.

We ask that those findings result in consistent, ongoing training to help law enforcement safely interact with individuals with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities, including those living independently.



We want Howard County and the State of Maryland to re-evaluate their approach to mental health emergencies, from the training of 911 dispatchers to how they deploy crisis interventions. We appreciate that the police have committed to equipping their officers with more effective non-lethal alternatives.

Finally, we also call for better documentation and public reporting of training compliance, as well as renewed collaboration with advocacy organizations to review and improve training.

### **Our commitment**

The statistics on the challenges adults with autism encounter are concerning, from their vulnerability to social and financial exploitation, to their propensity for misunderstanding and being misunderstood during interactions with law enforcement and the criminal justice system. The Autism Society of Maryland will continue to develop, curate and promote resources to help families prepare their children for independence, as well as those that help identify individuals with intellectual disabilities living independently to law enforcement. Our programs and services are located on our website at <https://autismsocietymd.org>

Patuxent Commons, where Alex lived, was created to provide affordable, inclusive housing rooted in community for families, older adults and adults with disabilities. The community was more than a decade in the making, and we are incredibly proud to be leading the way for similar communities being built across the United States.

This terrible tragedy could have occurred anywhere with anyone who was experiencing a mental health crisis. As an organization that is committed to serving individuals with autism, we believe in the Patuxent Commons model and the independence it offers to those who can thrive in such an environment. We believe Alex was in the right place, we celebrate his life, and we expect justice and change.

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