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September 18, 2023

An Open Letter to the 26th District

On behalf of the communities represented by the 26th District, I want to thank and acknowledge our dedicated law enforcement professionals. During the last two weeks, as the hunt for escaped murderer Danelo Cavalcante made its way to our area and we became ground zero for one of the most intensive manhunts in Pennsylvania history, our community was on edge.

Our region's local police departments, along with the State Police and federal agencies, demonstrated professionalism, competence, and commitment – they put themselves literally on the line in danger between our community and a desperate and armed killer. It's not often we get to see up close the job that's done by our law enforcement officers to protect us, and having witnessed the response firsthand, I can say we ought to be proud of our entire law enforcement community today.

The fact the crisis was resolved without loss of life or injury to any member of law enforcement or our community speaks to the professionalism and purposeful manner in which officers conducted the search and capture. I want to thank each and every member of our law enforcement community, our fire and EMS support, and all those who played a role in managing the search efforts.

While this particular crisis played out publicly, we know our police officers face challenges and dangers *every day* as part of their service to our communities. With that in mind, I want to assure our local police and law enforcement officers that you have our continued support, and that we are committed to working with you to provide the resources you need to keep our communities safe.

With deep appreciation and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Friel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Friel, State Representative, 26th District