

This message is sent on behalf of URI Police Department.

**URI Police Department
SEX OFFENDER FACT SHEET
NOTIFICATION OF RELEASE IN RHODE ISLAND
October 27, 2017**



RISK LEVEL III (HIGH): In addition to Level I and II notification (other law enforcement agencies, victims/witnesses, schools and daycare centers and other organizations likely to encounter the offender) law enforcement may notify individual community members who are likely to encounter the offender.

The University of Rhode Island Police Department is releasing the following information pursuant to R.I. General Laws §11-37.1-1 et seq., also known as the Sexual Offender Registration and Community Notification Act. The individual named below is subject to community notification pursuant to R.I. General Laws §11-37.1-12 of the Act, which authorizes law enforcement agencies to inform the public of a sex offender's release from prison back into the community when the Sex Offender Board of Review determines that the release of information will enhance public safety and protection. The University of Rhode Island Police Department recently learned that this offender is participating in a program in the Fine Arts building.

The individual who appears on this notification has been convicted of Criminal Sexual Conduct or other statutes which requires the individual to register with law enforcement pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §11-37.1 et seq of the Act.

This offender is not wanted by the police at this time and has served the sentence imposed on him by the court. This notification is not to increase fear in the community. It is the belief of law enforcement that an informed public is a safe public.

Except as provided by law, court order or other legal prohibition, Law Enforcement may not direct where the offender does or does not reside, nor direct where the offender works or goes to school. The risk level of this offender has been determined based largely on his potential to re-offend.

Sex offenders have always lived in our communities, but it was not until passage of the Sexual Offender Registration and Community Notification Act that law enforcement was formally notified of their residence. In many of these cases, law enforcement is now able to share information with you. **However, abuse of this information to threaten, intimidate or harass registered offenders will not be tolerated and may be a crime.** Further, such abuse could potentially end law enforcement's ability to engage in community notifications.

The University of Rhode Island Police Department is available to help you by providing you with useful information on personal safety. The University of Rhode Island Police Department may be reached at (401) 874-2121. If you have information regarding current criminal activity of this or any other offender, please call 911.

Name of Offender: LEWIS JOHN COUNNAS **DOB:** 9/22/1967 **Age:** 50
Description of Offender: **Hair** Black **Height:** 6' **Race:** White
Eye color: Hazel **Weight** 200 **Sex:** Male
Resides in Area of: REGENT DRIVE, NORTH KINGSTOWN, RI 02852
Convicted of: 2003 (RI) 1st Degree Sexual Assault. Victim was a 51 year old female known to the offender
Probation Expires: Expires 2/1/2019. Lifetime Registration.