

# 10 simple ways for New Bedford residents to improve the city

In New Bedford, some residents have made it a full-time job to complain on Facebook, yet do little to either fix the issue themselves (for example, taking photos of trash instead of cleaning the trash) or take the time to officially report the problem to those with the resources to act. Ready to act instead of talk? Here are 10 actions you should consider BEFORE you take your gripes to social media.

## **1. Report potholes, graffiti and tree issues by using the 'SeeClickFix' page or app**

The City of New Bedford allows residents the opportunity to "report graffiti, potholes, and tree trimming" through their 'SeeClickFix' page (<http://www.newbedford-ma.gov/seeclickfix/>) or by using their app that can be found in the Apple or Android app stores.

Here's an example of the form:

REPORT

REQUESTS

Street Address \*

City/County \*

New Bedford

State/Province \*

Massachusetts

Step 1 of 2

Next »

Search for issues nearby

Q

Map

Locate Me

Satellite

Drag red marker to refine the location.

New Bedford

Dartmouth

Westport

Buzzards Bay

Google

Map data ©2018 Google

Terms of Use

☒ Updating map and form automatically.

Report an Issue

SeeClickFix

powered by

You can then track the response from the city by clicking the 'Requests' tab:

REPORT

REQUESTS

Sort by: Recent

Filter

A

Other City Issue (1)

1260–1298 Cove Rd New Bedford 02744, United States

about 43 minutes ago · Fix it! · Share

B

Trash/Bulky Item Violation (1)

1 Welcome Street New Bedford, MA 02744, United States of America

about 1 hour ago · Fix it! · Share

C

Other City Issue (2)

444 Rivet St New Bedford 02740, United States

about 2 hours ago · Fix it! · Share

D

Potholes (2)

891 Peckham Rd New Bedford, Massachusetts

about 2 hours ago · Fix it! · Share

E

street sign (3)

29-51 Arnold Pl New Bedford, MA 02740, USA

about 4 hours ago · Fix it! · Share

Trash/Bulky Item Violation (2)

590–638 Court St New Bedford 02740, United States

Search for issues nearby

Locate Me

Embed

Map data ©2018 Google

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Last 30 days: 23 Opened | 40 Closed | 126

Report an Issue

SeeClickFix powered by

## 2. Use the tools the Neighborhood Task Force provides

Is a landlord not taking action about trash or other issues? Call the Neighborhood Task Force – (508) 979-1410 or report the violation with their **online form**. Read more on the **Neighborhood Task Force webpage**.

## 3. See a crime? Report it to the police

New Bedford is also known as the ‘Secret City’ because so many residents refuse to report crime for fear of being called a snitch or even being retaliated against. The New Bedford police provide anonymous ways to report crime **online** or by calling (508) 961-4584.

## 4. Purchase exterior home cameras and register it with the NBPD

The New Bedford court system is known to be a revolving door for criminals. Judges seem to release repeat offenders back onto the street to victimize witnesses or commit other crimes without much fear from the judges.

It's already hard enough to convict offenders, but the things that help prosecutors the most is video evidence and witnesses. Home security cameras and video storage are very affordable. Once you buy security cameras go ahead and **register them with the New Bedford Police Department**. If a crime is committed near your home, the police may request to see if you have video evidence. The more cameras that are put up in high crime areas the stronger the case for prosecutors getting convictions.

## **5. Participate in a neighborhood group**

Neighborhood groups provide a great way for concerned citizens to get together and come up with ideas that are passed on to appropriate City departments. Neighborhoods United is the best place to start. Per the **City of New Bedford's website**:

"Neighborhoods United is an organization of 12 New Bedford neighborhoods, associations, and crime watch groups that are committed to making their communities a safer and healthier place in which to live. Members also assist with other interested neighborhoods to start new groups. Neighborhoods United comes together to facilitate initiatives and activities that can help improve the quality of life for community residents. The following is a list of currently active neighborhood associations and watch groups:

- Arnold Street Neighborhood Association
- Brooklawn Neighborhood Association
- Bullard St. Neighborhood Association
- Buttonwood Park Area / Historic District Neighborhood Association
- Clark's Point Neighborhood Association

- Cove St. Neighborhood Association
- Far North End Neighborhood Association
- Goulart Square Neighborhood Association
- Hope VI Safety Watch
- Mt. Pleasant Neighborhood Association
- Neighborhoods United
- Neighborhood Working Group of the South End
- South First

Contact New Bedford's Planning, Housing and Community Development at (508) 979-1500 for more information on neighborhood group in New Bedford.

## **6. Meet with your City Councilor and attend City Council meetings**

I've always found New Bedford City Councilors to be responsive to phone calls and emails. A City Councilor's primary job is constituent services – at least that's what they say over and over during elections. If you have problems on your street or neighborhood contact your ward councilor or any of the at-large councilors. Their emails and phone numbers can be found **here**.

City Councilors are also your city's legislators, charged with writing ordinances and approving the City's budget. Attend a City Council Session or committee meeting to stay up-to-date on City Government and meet them directly to share your concerns. Full 2018 schedule **here**.

## **7. Participate in Operation Clean Sweep**

Want to help keep New Bedford clean? **Operation Clean Sweep** is a great way to start. The cleanups are also a way to meet other amazing like-minded people in the community and food is usually provided at no charge. They have an amazing record:

"In the last 12 years, over 7000 volunteers from all segments of the community have participated in neighborhood cleanups.

These dedicated volunteers performed over 23,000 hours of community service and cleaned over 82 tons of trash from many miles of New Bedford neighborhood streets.”

Check out their **website** and follow them on **Facebook** to find out when the next clean up is scheudled.

Want to have an even bigger impact? Take inspiration from Operation Clean Sweep and start your own group of volunteers to clean up your street.

## **8. Volunteer**

At the time of this article, volunteermatch.org lists 164 volunteer opportunities in New Bedford. There is no better way to have a positive impact in New Bedford than by volunteering.

## **9. Attend office hours with your mayor**

Mayor Jon Mitchell holds monthly office hours. For the most recent one, **he even bought pizza** for anyone that attended. Stay tuned to **NewBedfordGuide.com** and follow our Facebook page as we post his up-coming office hours well in advance. We also share it on the **New Bedford Politics Facebook group**.

## **10. Join our New Bedford Politics Group**

Still have a gripe or just want to talk politics? Join the