

Lt. Fernando Pimental retires from the Bristol County Sheriff's Office after 30 years of service

"Congratulations to Lt. Fernando Pimental on his retirement from the Sheriff's Office after 30 years of dedicated service.

From his days behind the wall as a corrections officer to his time in our public programs team, Freddy has been a friend and mentor to countless folks in his decades at the BCSO. He led our Project Lifesaver program and took hundreds of classes and thousands of students on tours of the jail through the Project SLAM program.

Two things you can say about Freddy and his time at the BCSO: No one worked more details at Great Woods, and he always had a smile on his face and a kind word to say about his friends and colleagues.

Congrats Freddy and good luck!"-Bristol County Sheriff's Office.

Juvenile suspect wanted in connection to arson incident in Boston detained while

attempting to board flight in New York City

“On Friday January 15, 2021, Boston Police Detectives assigned to the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office traveled to a Juvenile Detention Center in New York to take custody of a juvenile male suspect who was wanted on an outstanding warrant stemming from the events which unfolded in Downtown Boston on May 31, 2020.

At the time of his detention, the suspect was attempting to board a one-way, international flight when authorities discovered the outstanding warrant which had been issued out of the Juvenile Division of Boston Municipal Court on charges of Delinquent to Wit: Arson of a Motor Vehicle and Inciting a Riot.

The suspect had previously been placed in custody on Thursday June 11, 2020, by members of the BPD Fire Investigation Unit and the Framingham Police Department and was later released. The suspect is expected to be arraigned in Boston Juvenile Court.”

Massachusetts Troopers arrest two, seize guns, ammo, and ballistic vest, following

pursuit

At 2:02 a.m. today, Trooper Thomas Shruhan from the State Police-Milton Barracks was on patrol on Route 28 in Milton when he observed a blue 2018 Mercedes-Benz sedan that drew his interest. The Mercedes was the subject of a prior "Be On the Lookout" bulletin after it fled the area of a shots fired call in Boston's Mattapan district on Jan. 2.

Trooper Shruhan followed the suspect vehicle onto Route 24 southbound, where he was backed up by Troopers Joseph Connor and Aaron Richardson, and the Troopers attempted to initiate a high-risk felony stop. The Mercedes accelerated in an effort to evade the Troopers, abruptly exiting Route 24 onto Route 27, heading eastbound at a high rate of speed. At that point the active pursuit was terminated but Troopers followed in that direction.

While approaching the intersection of Route 27 and West Avenue, the suspect who was driving lost control of the vehicle and crashed into a pole. Troopers and Brockton Police officers converged on the crashed vehicle and took two males into custody.

From the vehicle, Troopers recovered the following items:

01. A loaded polymer 9mm handgun with no serial number;
02. A loaded Kahr Arms 9mm handgun;
03. Two Kahr magazines;
04. One 33-round large capacity magazine;
05. 48 rounds of 9mm ammunition; and
06. A ballistic armor vest carrier (the vest into which ballistic plates are inserted).

Both occupants are charged with illegal possession of firearms, carrying loaded firearms, possession of a large capacity feeding device, and unlawful possession of ammunition. They are identified as:

JHOVANNI JACKSON, 21, of the Bronx, N.Y., the suspected driver; and

AQUAN A. HUDSON, 22, of Brocton, believed to be passenger.

The driver, JACKSON, is additionally charged with multiple motor vehicle offenses, use of body armor in a felony, resisting arrest, and refusing to identify himself to police. The passenger, HUDSON, was found to be the subject of two outstanding warrants and was additionally charged accordingly.

Both suspects were transported to Good Samaritan Hospital under MSP guard. HUDSON was treated and released, was booked at an MSP barracks, and was expected to be arraigned today in Brockton District Court. JACKSON remained hospitalized as of this writing and will be booked and arraigned upon his release from the hospital.

Several dealerships in Dartmouth to pay \$1 million in unemployment benefit scheme

Colonial Automotive Group, Inc. (Colonial) has agreed to pay \$1 million in penalties to settle claims that it took advantage of state unemployment benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic, Attorney General Maura Healey announced today. Following the state's mandated closure of car dealership showrooms during the public health crisis, the company encouraged furloughed employees to apply for benefits through the state Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA), and then requested that those employees continue to work without

pay.

“Colonial Automotive planned and carried out an illegal scheme to cheat our unemployment system and avoid paying its workers in order to maximize its profits during the COVID-19 crisis,” AG Healey said. “This is a brazen attempt at exploiting workers and the state’s unemployment system, and we will take action against those who defraud our state agencies and try to steal taxpayer dollars.”

The assurance of discontinuance, filed Thursday in Suffolk Superior Court, settles allegations that Colonial violated the Massachusetts False Claims Act when it furloughed the majority of its sales employees at its 16 car dealerships throughout the state, encouraged them to apply for unemployment benefits, and then asked them to perform certain aspects of their jobs despite being furloughed and despite collecting state benefits from DUA. The AG’s Office alleges the company directed its furloughed employees to perform various jobs including calling prospective sales leads, setting appointments with prospective customers, delivering cars to customers, and finalizing sales, and it did not pay these employees’ salaries for the work they performed during this period.

The AG’s Office alleges that in the months following the state ordered closure of the dealership’s showrooms, the company sold approximately 366 cars in April and approximately 455 cars in May that were attributed to employees who were on furlough and collecting unemployment benefits at the time of the sales.

Under the terms of the assurance of discontinuance, Colonial will pay \$1 million that will go to the state’s general fund. The company will also enact policies and procedures to ensure that furloughed employees do not perform any functions related to their job or Colonial’s business and, in any instance where furloughed employees do perform these duties, the company will compensate them in accordance with state employment

regulations. Colonial is also required to amend any prior inaccuracies in its Employment and Wage Detail Reports filed with DUA.

Colonial's 16 car dealerships include Colonial Cadillac of Woburn, Colonial Chevrolet of Acton, Colonial South Chevrolet Dartmouth, Colonial West Chevrolet Fitchburg, Colonial Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram Hudson, Colonial South Jeep Dodge Ram Dartmouth, Colonial Ford of Plymouth, Colonial Ford of Marlborough, Colonial Honda of Dartmouth, North End Mazda of Lunenburg, Colonial Nissan of Medford, Cityside Subaru of Belmont, North End Subaru of Lunenburg, Colonial Volkswagen of Westborough, Colonial Volkswagen of Medford, and Wellesley Volkswagen.

During the public health crisis, AG Healey's Office has been focused on protecting the state, workers, and consumers from fraud related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In November, the AG's False Claims Division reached a \$550,000 agreement with a Maryland-based company for marketing and selling to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority a product it falsely claimed was an effective hand sanitizer alternative to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The Colonial matter was handled by Assistant Attorney General Sean Hildenbrandt of AG Healey's False Claims Division, with assistance from False Claims Division Chief Amy Crafts as well as the Program Integrity Unit of the DUA.

The False Claims Division was created by AG Healey in 2015 to safeguard public funds and promote integrity and accountability in public contracting. AG Healey urges anyone with information about suspected fraud or abuse relating to state or municipal contracts or funds to contact the False Claims Division's tip line at 617-963-2600

New Bedford's Police Chief Joseph Cordeiro rolls up for the COVID-19 vaccine

"Chief Joseph Cordeiro rolls up for the COVID-19 vaccine courtesy of the New Bedford Health Dept. #COVID19 #coronavirus #nbpd #newbedford #publichealth."

Wareham Police Department is seeking the whereabouts of man who brandished firearm

The Wareham Police Department is seeking the whereabouts of Hector Flores (20), of no certain address. Detectives of the Wareham Police Department obtained a warrant for his arrest, for assault by means of a dangerous weapon.

The warrant stems from an incident at the Atlantic Motel on January 13th, where it is believed Flores brandished a firearm during a dispute. Flores is a thin build male possibly with a cast on his right forearm.

Flores should be considered armed and dangerous. If you have any information as to the location of Flores please contact the Wareham Police Department.

OPINION: “What can I do to help keep New Bedford’s station 8 open? They saved my home!”

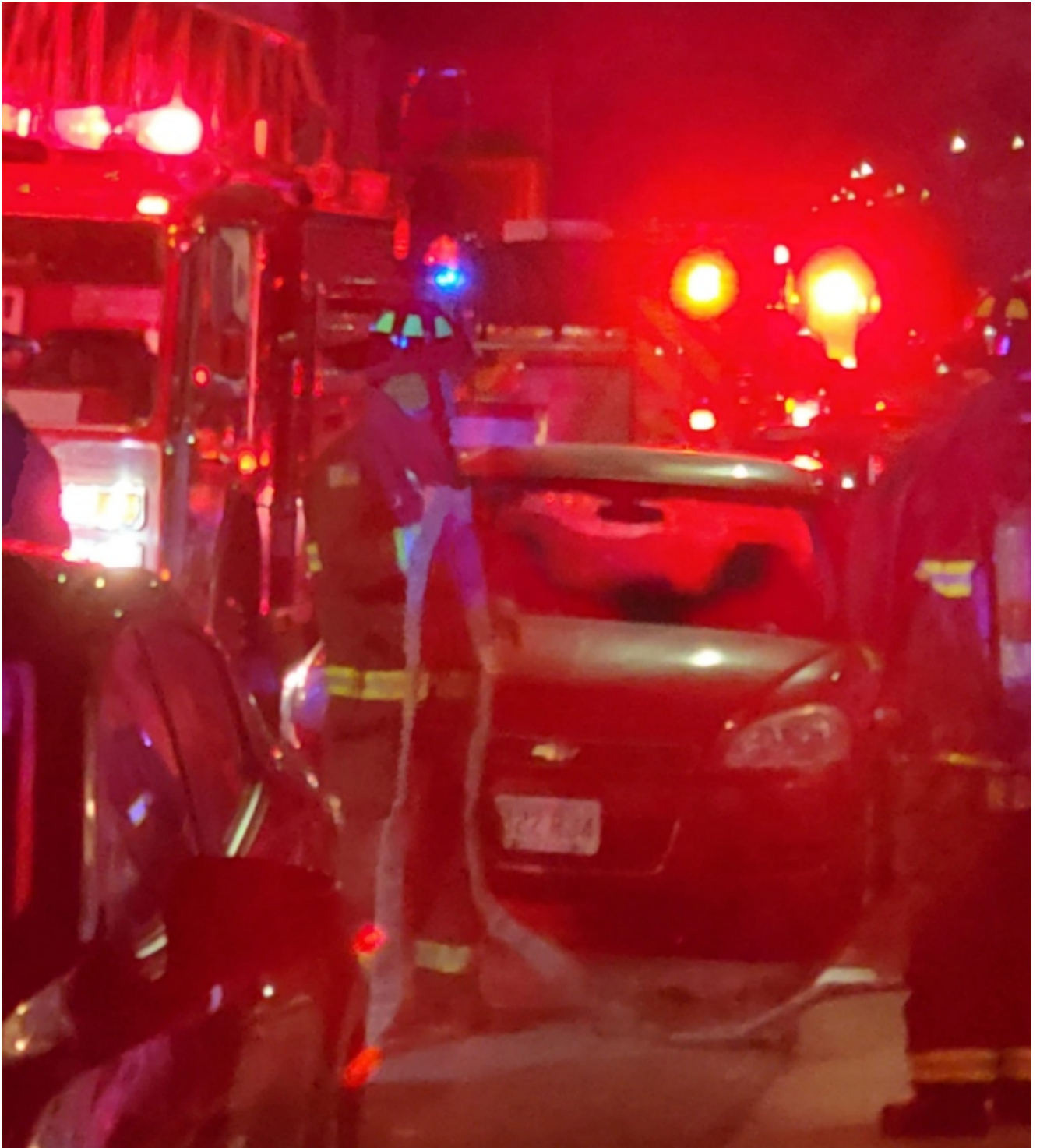
“Not sure how to get this to New Bedford Fire and Police so I want to put this out there, I’m hoping they will see it.

What can I do to help keep station 8 open? They saved my home this morning. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for saving us from losing our home to a fire and for calming my two children. Due to your amazing response time, we didn’t lose our apartment.

You were here before we could even get out of the house. You got to the fire upstairs quickly and made it safe for my kids to get out of the cold and back into the house.

You guys are not appreciated enough! To both the police and fire department: thank you so much!

“-Kendra Stevenson Frederic.



Kendra Stevenson Frederic photo.



Kendra Stevenson Frederic photo.



Kendra Stevenson Frederic photo.

Massachusetts State Troopers arrest man with firearm, narcotics after he blasts through red light

At approximately 12 p.m. on January 6, Trooper Charles McGrail was on patrol while assigned to State Police-Milton. While he was stationary at a red traffic signal on Chickatawbut Road at Route 28 in Milton he observed a white Mitsubishi sedan approach the same intersection on Route 28 at a high rate of speed. The vehicle proceeded through the intersection, without stopping, after the signal had turned red. Trooper McGrail pulled behind the vehicle and activated his blue lights.

As Trooper McGrail was coming to a full stop the operator of

the Mitsubishi, identified as DARREN HENRY, 34, of Mattapan, exited the vehicle and began walking away. Trooper McGrail instructed HENRY to sit in his vehicle, informed him why he was stopped, then requested his license and registration. It was discovered on scene that HENRY's driver's license was suspended. Troopers Nick Nassise and John Denapoli then arrived on scene to assist. Trooper McGrail requested a tow truck to respond as HENRY was not able to drive the vehicle from the scene.

Prior to the vehicle being towed Troopers conducted an inventory of its contents and quickly located a loaded .45 caliber pistol. HENRY does not possess a license to carry firearms and was subsequently placed under arrest. Troopers also located a small amount of a substance suspected to be powder cocaine, crack cocaine, and illegally possessed Ativan.

HENRY was transported to State Police-South Boston for booking. He was scheduled for arraignment at Quincy District Court on the following offenses:

01. Illegal Possession of a Firearm;
02. Possession of a Firearm without FID Card;
03. Carrying a Loaded Firearm;
04. Possession of a Class B Substance, two counts;
05. Possession of a Class C Substance;
06. Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended Driver's License; and
07. Failure to Stop for Red Light.

Bristol County Sheriff's

Office's Captain Bobby Johnson retires after 30 years of service

"Congratulations and best of luck to Capt. Bobby Johnson, who officially walked out the door of the Bristol County Sheriff's Office for the last time on Thursday as he heads into retirement after 30 years on the job.

Many people around Bristol County know Capt. Johnson for his years leading our inmate Community Work Program, where he made annual visits to The Salvation Army, Feast of the Blessed Sacrament, Councils on Aging and more as he directed a team of volunteer inmates doing community service for decades.

Back at the office, Capt. Johnson was one of the nicest, most respected people on our team, and someone who always took the time to say hello or offer advice and guidance to a younger officer.

On behalf of Sheriff Hodgson, Supt. Souza and the rest of the BCSO, we wish Bobby nothing but the best. Happy Retirement Captain!"-Bristol County Sheriff's Office.



Bristol County Sheriff's Office photo.

New Bedford roadwork sites for the upcoming week of January 19, 2021 – January 22, 2021

The City of New Bedford has roadwork sites for the upcoming week of January 19, 2021 – January 22, 2021 and they are as follows:

Eversource: (Work to begin 1-19-2021)

- Bliss St from Dartmouth Town Line to Bolton St

- Nelson St from 94 Nelson St to South Second St
- Union St from Orchard St to South Sixth St
- Sycamore St from Cedar St to Chestnut St
- Lucas St from Brock Ave to W. Rodney French Blvd
- Hathaway St from Nauset St to North Property line x 480 Mt. Pleasant

Other:

- Contractor (North Turf) will be on site at Hazelwood Park installing the gutter system for the new bowling greens.
- Department of Public Infrastructure will be filling potholes city-wide on a continuous basis.
- The contractor (Baystate WinSupply) is scheduled to continue large water meter replacements at various locations throughout the city. There are no anticipated traffic controls for this work.
- Due to ongoing construction at the High Hill Reservoir residents may experience discolored water. The water is safe, and the discoloration will be temporary. We recommend allowing the water to settle for a few hours and then flushing your service line by letting the bathtub run for a few minutes until the water clears.

*** Please note: Contractors will continue to follow guidelines and protocol regarding COVID-19 social distancing while conducting work in construction zone.*

Due to the current COVID-19 situation the Department of Public Infrastructure will be closed to the public entry. Office staff is available to assist by email and telephone.