

City of New Bedford recognized as one of world's leaders on environmental action, transparency

"The City has been recognized by the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) as one of the 119 cities across the globe that is taking bold leadership on environmental action and transparency by receiving an "A" score on the 2023 CDP Cities A-List.

Founded in 2000, CDP is a non-profit organization that runs the global disclosure system for investors, companies, cities, states, and regions to manage their environmental impacts and drive urgent action needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, safeguard water resources, and protect forests. CDP's Cities A-List is based on environmental data and is designed to support and encourage cities to ramp up climate action and ambition. More than 900 cities received a rating for their climate action from CDP in 2023, and slightly more than one in 10 received an A.

According to the CDP, to score an A, a city must disclose publicly through CDP, have a city-wide emissions inventory, and have published a climate action plan, among other categories. It must also complete a risk-and-vulnerability assessment and have a climate adaptation goal to demonstrate how it will tackle climate hazards. By reporting climate data through CDP each year, New Bedford is transparent about its climate action, tracking progress, monitoring risks, and benchmarking against other cities facing similar challenges.

"New Bedford is committed to addressing proactively the risks posed by climate change," Mayor Jon Mitchell said. "Our climate action plan continues to guide our work on renewable

energy, energy conservation, and coastal resilience.”

“I am thrilled and gratified that New Bedford’s cutting-edge work and leadership in this emerging area has been recognized on a global level by the CDP,” said Michele Paul, director of the City’s Department of Resilience and Environmental Stewardship. “Our office continues to pursue state and federal funding resources to implement climate mitigation and carbon reduction strategies to capitalize on opportunities to benefit all of the City’s residents.”-City of New Bedford.

Passerby alerts New Bedford Fire Department of fire at Coggeshall Street tenement

“Yesterday morning at 8:53am, the New Bedford Fire Department responded to a structure fire at 303 Coggeshall Street that was reported by a passerby calling 911. This building is a three-story wood frame building containing several apartments and business use on the first floor. The building is protected by a working fire alarm system.

First arriving crews located a fire on the first floor, forced entry, and extinguished a room and contents fire with one hose line. There was no fire extension to the second floor and no tenants were injured or displaced.

The cause of the fire was investigated by the New Bedford Fire Department Fire Investigation Unit and determined to be unintentional.”-New Bedford Fire Department.



New Bedford Fire Department photo.



New Bedford Fire Department photo.



New Bedford Fire Department photo.

Wareham Police announce operation of Polar Express Train in town this year!

“Just a reminder to everyone that the Polar Express Train will be operating during this holiday season. Please be aware that there will be heavier train traffic through town.

Nice to see that this locomotive is still out and running. It was built in 1957 and 1 of 60 that were built.

We are lucky to have such a big piece of railroad history operating in our town.”-Wareham Police Department.



From the Polar Express Train's website:

“Set to the sounds of the motion picture soundtrack, passengers will relive the magic of the classic story as they are whisked away on THE POLAR EXPRESS™ for a 1 to 1 ½ hour trip to meet Santa.

Santa and his elves board the train at the North Pole to greet passengers and each guest is given the first gift of Christmas. Please be sure to have your camera ready to capture this moment! During the trip, characters on each car lead fantastic onboard entertainment – just like in the film! Each child will take home a keepsake sleigh bell and souvenir golden ticket in addition to the wonderful memories made on

this magical trip. Delicious hot chocolate and Walker's Shortbread cookies – the "Official Onboard Treat" of THE POLAR EXPRESS Train Ride, which are individually wrapped in sealed packages, will be served to each passenger during the run.

We recommend wearing your Christmas jammies for even more fun!"





See more photos [here](#).

MassDOT to hold info session to discuss impact from work on Rt. 18/I-195 in New Bedford

“MassDOT is holding a virtual information session next Wednesday, December 6 from 10am-11am to discuss how businesses could be impacted by upcoming work on the Route 18/I-195 Interchange project in New Bedford.

The impacted areas and schedule will be discussed during the session. You can register at this link: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAoc0qqrjwoEtMZ2cjR-Ihid4UAafFyijK0?fbclid=IwAR123FKuJgnIjXPE5IINSJrZpA_u7ohpjWwC7lxXHG9WRDG-3ti8-h5_hbk#/registration “-New Bedford Economic Development Council.



New Bedford Economic Development Council

Massachusetts State Police, K-9s, capture accused child rapist, cut him down from tree

“Massachusetts State Police fugitive unit Troopers and an MSP K9 Unit team and partner officers, after a nightlong search for an accused child rapist, ultimately captured him before dawn today in Stoneham woodland.

Members of the MSP Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section (MSP VFAS) and US Marshals Service Task Force Officers (USMS TFOs) developed information that suspect RICKLAND POWELL, 59, of Belmont, might be in a wooded area in that town.

MSP K9 Unit Trooper Christina Cavagnaro and her partner Thor assisted in the search, tracking into the woods. At about 3 AM the K9 team, along with MSP VFAS Troopers and USMS TFOs, located POWELL, who had hung himself from a tree.

Troopers and Officers cut the suspect down. The suspect was still alive and was transported to an area hospital. The Belmont Police Department, which conducted the investigation that led to the child rape warrants against POWELL, assumed custody of him.

Belmont Police recently requested assistance from MSP VFAS in searching for POWELL, for whom Belmont detectives had obtained a warrant for the following offenses: Rape of a Child with Force (four counts); Aggravated Statutory Rape (four counts); Indecent Assault and Battery on a Child Under 14 (two counts); Posing a Child in a Sex Act; and Distributing Obscene

Material.

The charges stem from evidence indicating that POWELL raped a female child multiple times.

Cambridge Police and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department assisted in the search for POWELL."-Massachusetts State Police.

OPINION: "Calling for resignation of New Bedford City Council President Morad"

The following is an opinion sent to New Bedford Guide. It does not reflect the opinion of New Bedford Guide, nor is it an OP-ED. In fairness and objectivity, we share opinions from our readers whether we agree or disagree with their opinion.

Do you have a counter opinion to this opinion? Have an opinion about something else? Email us at info@newbedfordguide.com.

"I am calling for the Resignation of City Council President Linda Morad. The reason I am calling for her resignation is her actions as of late are unhinged, unprofessional, threatening and she is a threat to the city's democracy.

As a councilor her job is to work for the people. Last night at the Special Tax Meeting Linda Morad ordered Dennis Farias to close and lock the council doors while more than 6 councilors were in the chambers, possibly breaking laws for which I am seeking all avenues and advice on. She then came

out and mocked us in the hallway, which I have on video.

Outside of the building she stuck her tongue out at us like a 2-year old toddler, which I also have on video.

Also captured on video is her calling constituents 'assholes.' Also allegedly she in possession of a video where she lost control of the chambers during the 11/14 appointments and briefings meeting (FOIA Pending). At this same meeting she reportedly called a colleague of her's an asshole.

In my opinion Linda has become unhinged, unprofessional, is an immediate threat to our city's democracy and she needs to be removed from the chambers immediately.

At any professional job, you would be fired for your actions, as not only are they childish, they are unprofessional, threatening and don't represent this beautiful city I call home. As a citizens of New Bedford I call for your resignation. Feel free to reach me with any questions at 508-250-2614. Thank you."-Craig Ptaszenski.

26-year-old New Bedford gang member convicted gunning down of 18-year old at Clemente Park

"A 26-year-old New Bedford gang member convicted by a jury of his peers last month of the second degree murder of Brad Lourenco was sentenced this week in Fall River Superior Court to life in prison, Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M.

Quinn III announced.

Superior Court Judge Renee Dupuis sentenced Ivan Fontanez to life in prison, with the possibility of parole after 20 years, on Monday.

The two week long trial before Judge Renee Dupuis was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Shawn Guilderson and Matthew Sylvia.

The jury also convicted Fontanez of carrying an illegal firearm and carrying a loaded illegal firearm.

On June 5, 2017, Fontanez and Keeland Rose got a ride from Temple Landing in the West End of New Bedford to Rivet Street in the South End of New Bedford. Fontanez and Rose then walked to Roberto Clement Park where Fontanez pointed the firearm into a group of individuals at the park, fired the gun 9 times, and one shot struck Brad Lourenco in the back of the head causing his death. They both then ran from the area while being chased by south End gang members, including Bruno Lopes. Fontanez and Rose both crossed over Route 18 by way of a pedestrian foot bridge. The murder weapon was later located hidden on this bridge.

As they continued their flight, they discarded their sweatshirts and Fontanez discarded his sweatpants in a dumpster. That clothing was located, and DNA of Rose was found on one of the sweatshirts while DNA of Fontanez was found on the sweatpants. The chase continued back over Route 18 when Fontanez and Rose jump into the back of a pickup truck that was in the area hoping to flee the scene. After the driver of the truck stopped his car and ordered them out, Rose and Fontanez grabbed hand tools from the pickup truck in an attempt to defend themselves from the gang chasing them. They were apprehended by police within seconds of this occurring.

The shooting was likely the results of an ongoing feud between rival gangs in New Bedford and was in retaliation to an

incident that occurred about a week before the homicide involving the non-fatal shooting of Fontanez's half-brother.

"This was a gang related killing committed by the defendant in broad daylight to avenge the recent shooting of his half-brother. The murder was committed at a park with complete disregard for the safety of others who were in the vicinity of the shooting. It was particularly disturbing that associates of the defendant came to the trial during the testimony of several civilian witnesses with clear intent to influence their testimony.

While they have a right to watch the trial, any attempt to influence or intimidate a witnesses testimony undermines our system of justice," District Attorney Quinn said. "I commend the jury for focusing on the evidence and convicting the defendant of murder. The defendant was on probation at the time he committed the murder and received a five year sentence for committing a violent crime. He clearly is a danger to the community. I would like to thank the prosecution team for their efforts at trial, which led to the murder conviction."

Keeland Rose pled guilty to a charge of Accessory to Murder in 2019 and was sentenced to serve three to six years in state prison."

Boston Police Officers stop axe and machete wielding man trying to attack group of

teens

“At approximately 5:15 pm, on Monday, November 27, 2023, Officers assigned to the A-1 (Downtown) Drug Control Unit arrested Israel Silva, 51, of Roxbury, on weapons and drug related charges.

Officers were conducting a drug investigation in the area of Temple Place area when they heard a loud disturbance approximately 20 feet away. The officers upon observing what was happening, could see the suspect brandishing a large machete and threatening to attack a group of teens while simultaneously approaching them and challenging them to fight.

The officers quickly abandoned their investigation and rushed in to respond to the disturbance, as the officers were making their approach the suspect stopped and was observed reaching into his right pocket and then brandishing a small axe with his right hand as he held the machete with his left.

The suspect then continued to approach and challenge the group, who then ran off in fear of the suspect. The officers confronted the suspect and were able to successfully de-escalate the situation and place the suspect in handcuffs. Upon conducting a search of the suspect the officers recovered: 30 individual packets of K-2 Synthetic Marijuana, 16 Suboxone Strips, and a small digital scale.

Silva was placed under arrest and charged with: 2 counts of Assault with a Dangerous Weapon, 2 counts of Possession of a Dangerous Weapon, Possession of class B with intent to distribute, possession of class C with intent to distribute and disorderly conduct. He is expected to be arraigned in Boston Municipal Court.”-Boston Police Department.

Global Learning Charter Public School sponsors students to attend Brown U. leadership institute

“Global Learning Charter Public School (GLCPS), a tuition-free public charter school that currently services 500 students in grades 5-12, recently sponsored students Natalie Teixeira and Rosa Nieto-Hernandez at the Brown University Leadership Institute.

Both students chose to attend the Women in Leadership course which included readings, assignments, independent study and discussions.

Teixeira learned how to speak to others in a professional and respectful way while getting across her point and being her authentic self. She also learned how culture relates to becoming a leader, how to read and retain important information and the impact that women in leadership roles have on others. She is interested in pursuing a career in animation and film. “This class helped give me the strength and confidence to move forward with making changes that happen slowly,” said Teixeira.

Nieto-Hernandez enjoyed the on campus experience and meeting new friends from around the world including Thailand and London. One of her assignments was to develop an action plan to help an underserved community. Her project addressed the high illiteracy rate in her native country of El Salvador. She said the program really opened her eyes to the many facets of women in leadership and learned that it is not about being

perfect but about helping others to grow. She is considering a major in psychology to help other people.

“We congratulate Natalie and Rosa on taking on the challenge of this program,” said Dr. Stephen Furtado, Executive Director of GLCPS. “Both students felt the program exceeded their expectations and introduced them to new ideas and experiences. Natalie and Rosa are thinking about their futures and how they can have an impact on the world. We are pleased to be able to offer these opportunities to our students.”

GLCPS is a tuition-free public charter school serving 500 New Bedford students in Grades 5-12. Students are enrolled through a blind lottery. Additional information is available on the school’s website, www.glcps.org. For more information, please contact the school at (508) 991-4105.”

New Bedford has roadwork sites for the upcoming week of December 4, 2023 – December 8, 2023

“The City of New Bedford has roadwork sites for the upcoming week of December 4, 2023 – December 8, 2023, and they are as follows:

Eversource will be working on gas main relays and services on:

- Main relay on Brook St from Princeton St to Irvington St
- Main relay on Irvington St from Maywood St to Milford St
- Prepare for tie-ins on Church St

- Regulator work on Potter St at Rockdale Ave headed east towards Nashua St

Other:

- MassDOT will be staging installation and beam end cleaning and concrete encasements at I-195 East and West bound lanes over Purchase St, County St and State St will is scheduled during the overnight hours starting November 12th and will continue until May 31st of 2024. Work will take place Sundays to Thursdays. Police will be on site for detour and safety setups.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on a road reconstruction project at Sutton Street from Shawmut Ave to Harvard Street.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working at varies locations throughout the city on roadway and sidewalk patches.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working at MassDOT project #609201, located at the intersection of Acushnet Ave & Peckham Rd/Sassaquin Ave.
- Contractors (PA Landers and various utility companies) will be working at MassDOT's Kings Highway project. Minor traffic impacts and lane shifts required.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on a road reconstruction project at Acushnet Ave from Tarkiln Hill Road to Monmouth Street.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on a road reconstruction project at Wood Street from the town line to Church Street.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on a road reconstruction project at Irvington Street from Church Street to Maywood Street.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on a road reconstruction project at Van Buren Street from Mt. Pleasant Street to Myrtle Street. Police details and road closures will be required.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on a road

reconstruction project at West Rodney French Blvd from JFK Memorial Hwy/ Cove Street to Cove Road. Work will require lane and road closures.

- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on a road reconstruction project at Elm Street from Pleasant Street to Purchase Street, Purchase Street from Elm Street to Middle Street, Middle Street from Purchase Street to Fredrick Douglas Way and Fredrick Douglas Way from Middle Street to Elm St. Police details and road closures will be required.

- Contractor (SCR Constructors) will continue site work at the future South Coast Rail station platform locations in the city. (Church St at Carlisle St and Wamsutta St at Acushnet Ave.) If you have questions, please email the project team at SouthCoastRail@dot.state.ma.us

- Contractor (SCR Constructors) will continue site work at the future pedestrian bridge across Route 18 impacting parking along Purchase Street between Willis Street and Pearl Street and at the Division of Career Services on Acushnet Avenue. Temporary detours may be in place pending construction activities occurring. If you have questions, please email the project team at SouthCoastRail@dot.state.ma.us

- Contractor (Middlesex Corp) will be working on Nash Rd between Church St and Mt. Pleasant St. Traffic will be reduced to one lane and will have police details on site to assist with traffic.

- Contractor (Newport) will be working on Nash Rd between Church St and Mt. Pleasant St. Traffic will be reduced to one lane and will have police details on site to assist with traffic.

- Contractor (K5) will be painting roadway markings at various locations. Work will require lane and road closures."