

# Councilors Dunn and Coelho miss New Bedford Fire Department Engine 8 vote

New Bedford City Councilors Debora Coelho and Hugh Dunn did not attend last night's City Council session that featured a discussion and vote on the City Council going on record to oppose the planned decommissioning of New Bedford Fire Department's Engine 8. This is the seventh meeting in a row the two councilors have missed to include **all six 2021 budget meetings**.

For several months now, all New Bedford City Council meetings have been held on Zoom so councilors can attend and vote remotely.

Two motions were jointly voted on Thursday evening regarding the planned Engine 8 decommissioning that was **announced by Mayor Jon Mitchell as part of his cost-cutting in the FY2021 budget**:

"Due to a recent streamlining of dispatch protocols that has reduced the Fire Department's need to respond to medical calls rather than fire-related calls, Engine 8 will be decommissioned, and ten vacant firefighter positions eliminated. This will not result in the closure of a station. A portion of the savings will be used to assess the future configuration of fire stations in the North End of New Bedford, as was completed for the South End. There will also be added capacity in the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department to effectively respond to medical calls through EMS."

The City Council voted 8-1 to support the following motions – Councilor Linda Morad was the lone "no" vote:

“Councillor Gomes, requesting that the City Council go on record and send a letter to the Mayor in opposition to the closing of Firehouse Engine 8 on Acushnet Avenue and the Downtown Police sub-station on Pleasant Street, the closing of these two public safety buildings will be very detrimental to the areas that they serve; and further that the Council asked Mayor Mitchell to look at alternative cuts or surplus monies to keep these stations open.”

“Councillors Giesta, Abreu, Baptiste, Lima, Council President Lopes, Councillors Dunn, Markey and Carney, requesting that the Administration immediately reconsider its decision to decommission Engine 8 from the New Bedford Fire Department from its Fiscal Year 2021 budget, as its closure could potentially lead to devastating effects when it comes to the overall public safety of one of the most densely-populated areas of the community; and further that since it is confirmed that a new round of the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) federal grants from FEMA will now be available later this calendar year to help local fire departments rehire or retain firefighters as well as waive the local cost-share due to COVID-19 pandemic, that the City of New Bedford apply for said funding when appropriate to help alleviate any fiscal constraints to our annual fiscal budget, additionally the City does have a \$7.8 million in its “rainy day” fund, which could also be applied to offset any fire department related costs. (To be Referred to the Mayor’s Office, State Senator Mark Montigny, Representatives Antonio F.D. Cabral, Christopher Hendricks, Christopher Markey, William Strauss, and Paul Schmid, United States Senators Elizabeth Warren, Edward Markey, United States Congressman William Keating and Governor Charlie Baker.)”

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# Massachusetts State Police seek public's help investigating crash on Route 24 Southbound

Shortly after 7 a.m. today Massachusetts State Troopers from the Milton Barracks responded to a serious crash involving a sport utility vehicle and a tractor-trailer on Route 24 southbound at Exit 20B in Randolph. The crash resulted in serious injuries to the driver of the SUV and minor injuries to its four passengers. The State Police are requesting information from any motorists who may have witnessed the crash or stopped to render aid to the victims.

According to preliminary, investigation by Trooper Patrick Candeliere, a 1999 Ford Explorer with five occupants was traveling southbound in the second lane from right when it crossed into the far right lane, presumably to take the exit. The preliminary investigation suggests as the Explorer did so, it clipped the front end of a tractor-trailer traveling southbound in the far right lane.

Following that impact, the Explorer rolled over into the infield between the highway and the ramp. The driver of the Explorer, a 62-year-old Dorchester woman, had to be extricated from the vehicle by firefighters and was flown to Massachusetts General Hospital by medical helicopter with serious, life-threatening injuries.

The four passengers in the Explorer sustained minor injuries and were transported by ground ambulance to Boston Medical Center and Good Samaritan Hospital. They were a 65-year-old Mattapan woman, a 39-year-old Boston man, a 36-year-old Mattapan man, and a 27-year-old Dorchester woman.

The operator of the tractor-trailer, a 34-year-old Weymouth man, had no apparent injuries. The 2016 Volvo tractor is a leased vehicle owed by Ryder Truck Rental of Miami, Fla. Immediately after the crash, a male Good Samaritan rendered valuable emergency first aid to the driver of the Explorer prior to her being extricated. That man left the scene once EMS personnel arrived, before responding Troopers knew what he had done and could speak to him.

The State Police would like to speak to that man to determine whether he witnessed the crash, and also to thank him for assisting the victim at the scene. We likewise would like to speak to any other motorists who may have witnessed the crash.

Any motorist driving on Route 24 in the Randolph area around 7 a.m. who may have witnessed the crash, as well as the Good Samaritan who provided emergency first aid to the injured driver, are asked to please call the State Police-Milton Barracks at 617-698-5840.

Route 24 southbound was shut down briefly at the crash site to accommodate the landing of the Boston MedFlight helicopter. The ramp was re-opened at 8:54 a.m. and the scene cleared a few minutes later.

The crash remains under investigation by Troop H of the Massachusetts State Police with assistance from the State Police Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section, the State Police Crime Scene Services Section, and the State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Section. No further information is being released at this time.

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# Wareham Police, Sheriff and K-9 “Lucky” arrest two after car and foot pursuit

On Thursday August 20, at about 11:00 p.m. Wareham Police officers responded to the area of Bodfish Avenue for a reported fight. Officers determined that a vehicle that was involved in the incident had already fled the area prior to their arrival.

Within a few minutes, Sergeant Kevin Reilly observed a vehicle that matched the description of the one involved in the altercation. He attempted to stop it in the area of the Wareham Plaza on Marion Road. The vehicle did not stop, and then turned into the parking lot of the Town Hall where the operator jumped out, not placing the car in park causing it to keep rolling. The operator was last seen running toward the area of Spillane Field.

A passenger in the car was able to put the shift into the park position and the vehicle finally stopped. Plymouth County Deputy Sheriff Scott Sawler and K-9 “Lucky” were in the area and began a search for the male who fled.

A short time later, Deputy Sawler and his partner located the suspect hiding in a swampy area near the Middle School tennis courts, and placed him in custody. Sergeant Reilly and Officer Malik Wilkes located glassine bags in the car containing suspected illegal narcotics.

Geoffrey Whiting (34), of East Wareham, is charged with failure to stop for police, marked lanes violation, possession of a Class “E” drug, and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

The passenger, Mark St. George (31), of Wareham, will be

summoned to court for possession of a Class "E" drug.



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**Statement from U.S. Attorney  
Andrew E. Lelling on the**

# reversal of Tsarnaev's death penalty sentence

"After extensive deliberations, including consideration of the views of the many victims in this case, the Justice Department has decided to ask the Supreme Court to review the First Circuit Court of Appeals' decision to reverse the death penalty, in an effort to preserve the jury's verdict sentencing Dzhokhar Tsarnaev to death. Our hope is that this will result in reinstatement of the original sentence and avoid a retrial of the death penalty phase.

First, we respectfully disagree with the merits of the appellate court's decision. Second, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev is an ideologically driven mass killer who, with his brother, detonated at the finish line of the Boston Marathon two home-made bombs specifically designed to rip people apart, killing three – a young boy and two women – maiming seventeen, and injuring hundreds; shot a police officer three times in the head so they could steal his sidearm; and exchanged thousands of rounds with police officers in Watertown.

I have heard, and respect, the voices calling for the Department to drop its pursuit of the death penalty in this case. But the severity of Tsarnaev's crimes place him in that narrow category of criminals for whom death is a proportional punishment.

Some have argued that executing Tsarnaev will not deter others from pursuing similar crimes. But, ultimately, this decision is not about deterrence. It is about justice."

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# Faces Of New Bedford #240: Adam Katz



Meet Adam Katz, the 44-year-old owner of Mass Axes and downtown New Bedford's newest spot Play Arcade.

Adam graduated high school from Fairhaven High in 1993 then earned a degree at Umass Dartmouth for Fine Art Sculptures before taking off for Los Angeles, California, where he became a stunt man and a set builder. One of his more prominent roles was on the movie Men of Honor, where he doubled Robert De Niro wearing the Mark V Dive Suit and as one of the sailors on the boat. He worked on many 90's shows such as Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Sliders, and even played a cop on an episode of The X-Files.

Moving on from California, he made his way to Vancouver, working with a glass sculpture company before heading home to Fairhaven, MA. His return was short-lived as he made his way back out to California and began his construction company In-House Custom and brought that business back home working locally with his brother. Missing the action of doing stunts, Adam became an on-call firefighter in Mattapoisett for four



years and sixteen years in Fairhaven, where he is still on-call.

Having recently had a health scare, he decided along with his wife Lauren that a change of pace in life was necessary, and he got out of the construction business. His next venture was bringing throwing axes to parties and events, which became a hit, and co-founded Haul N Axe that has been at events locally like Oktoberfest.

Adam had complained to his wife about there not being enough fun things in the area for him to go with his wife and daughter, so she suggested he “do something about it” so he thought back to some of the fun places he had been to an Arcade bar came to mind. Earlier this year, an opportunity opened up to take over the location of the former Slainte Irish Pub, and he jumped on it, leasing the site and creating Play Arcade.

Work on the site began two weeks before COVID came into the news, but with most of their life’s savings put into this project, they continued with their excellent staff to get their place open. Working with Bit Bar from Salem, MA, they’ve got 25 retro arcade games and will have around 45 in the future. Adam believes New Bedford is an up and coming city where young professionals will flock too, so he designed Play Arcade to meet the demand that’s already here to have a fun, hip place, much like you’d find in cities like Providence and Boston.

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*Faces of New Bedford is a New Bedford Guide project being undertaken by Josh Souza. If you’d like to nominate someone or ask a question you can inquire with him through email at [josh@newbedfordguide.com](mailto:josh@newbedfordguide.com).*

Faces of New Bedford began as a project by Colton Simmons. You

can find Colton on Instagram:  
<https://instagram.com/simmonscolton>.

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# Acushnet Fire Chief: “We are dismayed by the state’s lack of interest in bringing COVID testing to Acushnet

A MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF KEVIN GALLAGHER:

“Earlier this week, the Acushnet Board of Selectmen endorsed a proposal to have the Fire & EMS Department conduct community-based testing for Covid-19. EMTs will be trained in test administration and the services of a certified lab will be secured. The goal is test results in 24–36 hours.

Because private insurance does not typically cover testing for people not experiencing COVID symptoms, those who are asymptomatic, the Selectmen have authorized the use of CARES ACT funds received from the state for this important project. All tests will be offered free of charge.

While the details of the plan are still being formalized (a formal document will be submitted to the Selectmen for their review at their September 8th meeting) we are creating our plan based on the following “Phases.” Each phase builds off each other:

**PHASE ONE:** At the request of any town department, trained EMTs will respond and conduct tests based on the situation presented. This is designed to assist the schools in their

reopening plans as well as the plans to open town buildings to the public. An example of Phase One; following the guidance offered by the state, the schools have reason to send a cohort home and recommend testing. Instead of multiple families making numerous calls to physicians and testing locations, our team would coordinate testing at an Acushnet site for the staff, students, and their immediate families. All testing results would be returned at the same time benefiting next step decisions.

**PHASE TWO:** Testing of high-risk populations.

**PHASE THREE:** Scheduled in advance testing open to all town residents.

We have been dismayed by the state's lack of interest in bringing free COVID testing to Acushnet as part of their "Stop the Spread" initiative. It was decided that we would take action on our own. The local benefits are real. For example, our Health Department would receive a head start initiating contact tracing as the results will come to us directly via a secured portal a period of time prior to formal notification from the state. This will help Acushnet stop the spread!

This is a big task and one we did not envision carrying out back in January, however, these are not common times. The goal is a community-level testing plan that addresses immediate needs, high-risk groups and the public at large. The cooperation of town departments has been strong as has the leadership of the Boards of Selectmen and Health. We look forward to getting to work."

#TestingWeGotThis

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# **New Bedford roadwork sites for the upcoming week of August 24, 2020 –August 28, 2020**

The City of New Bedford has roadwork sites for the upcoming week of August 24, 2020 –August 28, 2020 and they are as follows:

## **Eversource:**

Eversource will replace the gas mains and service at the following locations:

- Cottage St. From Parker St. – Sycamore St. (Main)
- Davis St. from Riverside Ave. to 389 Davis St. (Services)
- Hatch St. from Acushnet Ave. to Belleville Ave. (Services)
- Clifford St. from Ashley Blvd to Acushnet Ave. (Services)
- Summer St. from Studley St. to Locust St. (Main)
- Pleasant St. from 889 Pleasant St. to Hillman St. to Purchase St. (Main)

Eversource will be doing final street and sidewalk restoration at various locations city wide.

## **Other:**

- Contractor (PA Landers) to continue drainage work at Mass DOT Project #606709, New Bedford – Roadway Reconstruction and Related Work (including signals) along a section of Kings Highway and Tarkiln Hill Road. Construction to take place during regular working hours (Monday – Friday), police details and traffic controls will be in place.
- Contractor (PA Landers) to continue road reconstruction at Valentine St. from Brock Ave. to West Rodney French Blvd. to

prepare for final paving in the upcoming weeks. PA Landers and PJ Keating will pave Valentine St.

- The contractor (Private Contractor: Southcoast Development) will be conducting some roadway work at the intersection of Acushnet Ave. and Ashley Blvd. for the new Cumberland Farms project.
- Mass DOT will be making repairs on the bridge at I-195 eastbound over Route 18 ramp. Work will be from August 18th to November 30th.
- Department of Public Infrastructure will be filling potholes on a continuous basis throughout the city.
- Department of Public Infrastructure conducting its annual street sweeping program city-wide.
- The contractor (WES Construction) is scheduled to continue construction of the new pumping station and demolishing the old station at the Front St./ Elm St. site. Elm St., between JFK Memorial Highway (RTE 18) and MacArthur Dr. will be closed to westbound traffic. Westbound traffic will be detoured via MacArthur Drive. There will be detour signage and traffic controls in place.
- The contractor (Bay State Wind Water) is scheduled to replace water meters at various NBHA locations.
- 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.**

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# **“Ready, Set, Sort!” New Bedford & Dartmouth’s waste sorting games, launches contest with prizes**

Drum roll please! Introducing a fun and interactive way to learn the latest about how to sort waste! Have you ever held an item and wondered if it belongs in recycling or trash, or if it needs to be secured until household hazardous waste day? We have a game for you!

If you live in New Bedford, we invite you to play Ready Set Sort! New Bedford’s Waste Sorting Game at [newbedfordma.recycle.game](http://newbedfordma.recycle.game) or if you live in Dartmouth, visit [dartmouthma.recycle.game](http://dartmouthma.recycle.game) to play Ready Set Sort! Dartmouth’s Waste Sorting Game. Also, find the game on the City’s website at [newbedfordrecycling.org](http://newbedfordrecycling.org) and on the Town’s trash & recycling page on the website.

The Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District is holding a giveaway with a chance to win a \$20 gift card by completing the game! After playing all the levels of the game, type your name on the certificate and take a screenshot. To enter the giveaway, complete the entry form and upload the screenshot. The entry form and details can be found at [gnbrrmdistrict.org](http://gnbrrmdistrict.org). The deadline to enter is September 9, 2020 at 11 p.m. and winners will be announced on September 14, 2020. Gift cards have been donated by Stop & Shop, 438 Dartmouth Street and Stop & Shop, 1001 King’s Highway in New Bedford and Stop & Shop, Target, and Shaw’s in Dartmouth.

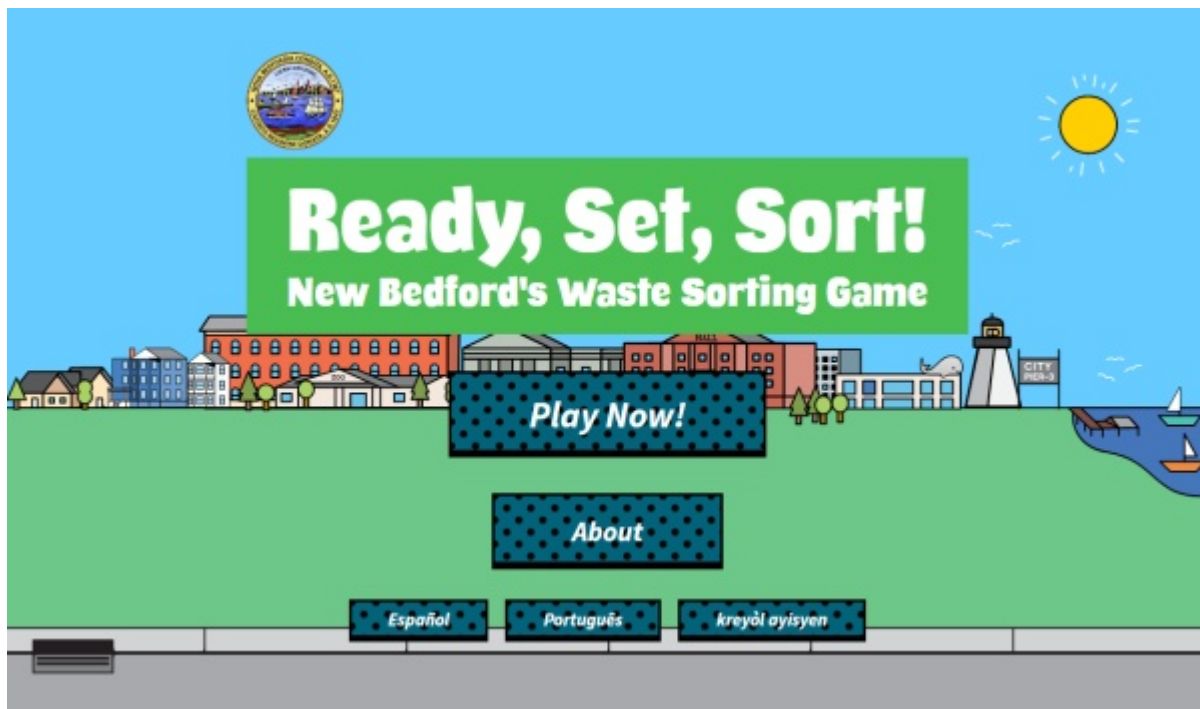
There are two separate giveaways. To enter New Bedford’s

contest, you must live in New Bedford and to enter Dartmouth's contest, you must live in Dartmouth. For either contest, you must be at least 18 years old.

Have the whole family play the game and see which generation has the easiest time sorting waste. While we physically distance to stay safe, this game gives youngsters a topic to call grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends about to let them know how many levels they made it through and if they earned a certificate. Also, when you sort materials correctly, you earn fun items to build your own digital park. Will you choose the Ferris wheel, the UFO, or T-Rex?

"While the contest is for adults, we definitely look forward to all school-aged children enjoying this fun and educational game!" notes Marissa Perez-Dormitzer, Waste Reduction Manager for New Bedford and Dartmouth.

For more information, please call the Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District Waste Reduction Office at (774) 503-0254 or email [Marissa@gnbrmdistrict.org](mailto:Marissa@gnbrmdistrict.org).



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# Skunk tests positive for rabies in New Bedford's South End

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) has notified the New Bedford Health Department of a skunk that has tested positive for rabies in the area of the "Poor Farm," located at the corner of Brock Avenue and Coral Street in the far South End of New Bedford.

The New Bedford Health Department and the New Bedford Animal Control urges neighboring residents who keep their pets outside to contact their veterinarians and make sure that their pets are up-to-date on their rabies vaccination. All pet owners should always ensure their pets' vaccinations are up to date.

Rabies can be found in several different animals in our community, so it is important to understand the signs of rabies in animals which can include:

- Abnormal or aggressive behavior
- Lethargy, weakness, or paralysis
- Self-mutilation
- Seizures
- Excessive salivation
- Difficulty breathing or swallowing

If you encounter an animal that may be infected with rabies, do not approach the animal. Keep a safe distance and call New Bedford Animal Control at 508-991-6366.



Rabies is transmitted through saliva, usually through a bite and is nearly always fatal for humans and animals, so it is important to get treatment right away. If you had contact (bite, scratch, or physical contact) with an animal that may be rabid, thoroughly wash the area, seek medical attention and contact the State Department of Public Health, 24 hours a day/7 days a week, at 617-983-6800.

You can protect your pets by:

- Vaccinate Pets – The rabies vaccine for dogs, cats, and ferrets is a requirement under Massachusetts law. Contact your veterinarian or a rabies clinic to ensure vaccinations are up to date.
- Keep Pets Close – Always watch pets when they are outdoors and keep them away from wildlife. Use a leash, keep pets in fenced areas, and never let them roam free.
- Spay and Neuter – The CDC suggests spaying and neutering pets to reduce the potential for unwanted animals without vaccinations.
- Keep Wildlife Wild – Never keep a wild animal as a pet, it is illegal in Massachusetts.
- Secure Property – Bring all outdoor water or food bowls inside, cover garbage, and repair holes in chimneys, cellars, porches, and other areas. This will keep wildlife away from your property and out of your home.

The New Bedford Animal Control will also be holding its annual Rabies Clinic at Brooklawn and Hazelwood Parks on November 7. Vaccinations will be available for cats, dogs, and ferrets for \$15 per animal.

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# **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announces grant awards to southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island**

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced Wednesday that it will award four grants to community organizations in Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts under the Grant Per Diem, or GPD, program.

The grants allow up to 97 Veterans experiencing homelessness access to transitional housing, an increase of 10 beds to the area served by the VA Providence Healthcare System. The GPD program provides funding to community organizations that provide transitional housing and supportive services for homeless Veterans, with the goal of helping homeless Veterans achieve residential stability, increase their skill levels and income, and obtain greater self-determination.

“No Veteran should have to worry about whether they will have stable housing,” said Lawrence Connell, Director of the VA Providence HCS. “These GPD grants are an important part of the services and resources VA offers to help Veterans exit homelessness.”

The award period begins Oct. 1 to support three different types of grants to address the unique needs of Veterans who are homeless:

1. Per Diem Only grants are used to provide transitional housing beds and operate service centers for Veterans experiencing homelessness. These grants provide funding in the form of per diem payments to reimburse grantees for the cost

of care provided to Veterans during the award period.

2. Special Need grants provide funding to organizations that incur additional operational costs to help Veterans with special needs who are experiencing homelessness, including women, individuals with chronic mental illnesses and Veterans who care for minor dependents.

3. Transition in Place grants provide funding to community agencies that place Veterans experiencing homelessness in transitional housing, while also providing them with supportive services. These services are designed to help Veterans become more stable and independent, with the ultimate goal of Veterans assuming full responsibility for the lease or other housing agreement. When that goal has been achieved, the transitional residence becomes the Veteran's permanent residence and supportive services come to an end.

The GPD program has provided Veterans who are homeless with community-based transitional housing and supportive services since 1994. The number of Veterans experiencing homelessness in the U.S. has declined by 50 percent since 2010 – resulting from the GPD program and other VA efforts.

More information about the GPD program and a list of grantees is available at <https://www.va.gov/homeless/gpd.asp>.