

Man driving wrong way in Saugus kills woman in crash on Saturday

At approximately 3:35 a.m., Troopers from State Police-Danvers responded to crash caused by a wrong-way driver on Route 1 in Saugus that resulted in fatalities of the wrong-way operator and a passenger in the vehicle he struck.

Shortly after 3:30 a.m. State Police-Danvers received calls about a wrong-way driver going south on the northbound side of Route 1 in the area of Sonic restaurant in Peabody. Moments later the vehicle caused a head-on collision with another vehicle on the northbound side in the area of the Army Barracks store in Saugus.

Preliminary investigation indicates the Impala first clipped the rear end of a box truck and subsequently crashed head-on into a 2018 Dodge Journey SUV occupied by two adults.

Troopers rushed to the scene and found the sole male occupant of the wrong-way vehicle deceased inside the Impala, which caught fire, and the occupants of the Journey, a man and woman, with serious injuries.

The operator of the Journey, a 51-year-old Peabody man, was transported to Massachusetts General Hospital with serious injuries. His passenger, Evelyn Pinto, 48, of Peabody, was transported to Melrose-Wakefield Hospital (not MGH as previously reported) where she was pronounced deceased.

The operator of the Impala who was driving the wrong way was LUIS GALLEG0, 29, of Lynn.

The driver of the box truck was not injured.

The facts and circumstances of the crash, including the reason

for the wrong-way operation, remain under investigation by Troop A of the Massachusetts State Police with the assistance of the State Police Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section and the State Police Crime Scene Services Section.

All three lanes northbound were shut down as a result of the crash. They reopened around 6 am.

OPINION: If you're Brian Gomes it makes perfect sense to run for mayor and city council

It's official – long-time New Bedford at-Large City Councilor Brian Gomes has officially filed to run for at-Large city council and mayor in the same October 1 preliminary election (though he can still withdraw by 5 pm on Sep 3). He filed last Friday, the last possible day to officially file. It's a bold, calculated move by Gomes, that will at a minimum result in interesting debates. **There are now six people running for New Bedford mayor.**

Running for both spots is legal and makes sense if you are Brian Gomes. Most people in New Bedford could not pull it off without paying a price politically, but Gomes finished with the most votes in the New Bedford at-Large race in 2017. You only need to finish in the top 5 in the at-Large race to get elected to office and I'm certain Gomes feels confident in achieving that.

COUNCILLOR-AT-LARGE

(VOTE FOR) 5

IAN ABREU	7,468	18.02
NAOMI R. A. CARNEY	5,959	14.38
DEBORA COELHO	5,893	14.22
BRIAN K. GOMES.	7,510	18.12
LINDA M. MORAD.	7,020	16.94
CHRISTOPHER W. BOERL.	4,217	10.17
MICHAEL JANSON.	3,260	7.87
WRITE-IN.	119	.29

There is little doubt to me, that someone like Gomes, Ian Abreu or Linda Morad, could run for at-Large and mayor at the same time and still get elected to the city council. Mayor is a different animal.

Most who follow politics in New Bedford would say that Gomes has little chance of beating incumbent mayor Jon Mitchell, but I don't think his chances fall into the long-shot category. Sure, Gomes has very little campaign money (\$19.96) and Mitchell has well over \$200,000 in his war chest, but money isn't everything (though it REALLY helps!). Mitchell hasn't been in a real election since 2011 where he faced then Ward 1 councilor Linda Morad (now City Council President for 2 straight years) and State Legislature Tony Cabral. Since then he ran unopposed and went on to defeat Maria Giesta and Charlie Perry fairly easily. Gomes would make things more difficult for Mitchell.

Some will get angry at Gomes for running for two spots in this year's ballot because **a special election would cost \$50,000-60,000**, but I can't blame him. It's a low risk, high reward strategy. After losing his job at St. Luke's hospital (he's currently in a lawsuit against the hospital), he's now working as a security guard and still holds his City Council position. This year's mayoral race is for a 4-year term at

\$113,285 a year.

Factor in annual pay increases and you are talking about a 4-year term worth nearly a half a million dollars, quit the increase in pay for Gomes. I can't blame him for attempting a political move that would increase his income 2-3 fold without really risking his at-Large seat. City Councilors make \$23,498 a year and security guards are generally paid by the hour. Wouldn't you want to swap out two jobs for one while earning three-times the income?

Gomes's biggest issue will be if he somehow wins both the mayor race and gets an at-Large city council spot. He'd have to pick one and that means the at-Large seat would be open in a special election. **Manny DeBrito of the New Bedford Elections Office has stated that a special election would cost the city \$50,000-60,000** – not the best way to start off your 4-year mayoral term.

Man arrested with loaded gun, bottle of alcohol after road rage incident in Dartmouth

On Saturday, August 31, at approximately 8:10 p.m., Dartmouth Police received a call from a female that the male operator of a dark-colored pickup truck bearing a Virginia registration had allegedly pointed a gun at her while they were stopped at the traffic lights located near Shaw's on State Road.

After more detailed information regarding the description of the pickup truck was relayed to responding units, Officer Alec Grant located it on Faunce Corner Road near Lowe's. Due to the

possible involvement of a firearm, a felony stop was conducted.

Subsequent to the operator being safely removed from the vehicle and secured, he was identified as Michael Couture, 56, of Wallace Road, Hampton, Virginia.

During the investigation which followed, officers located a loaded 9 mm Ruger handgun inside of Couture's truck. In addition, officers also located an open bottle of alcohol, as well as several other empty bottles and cans of alcohol.

While speaking with Couture, he admitted that he had been involved in a road rage incident.

As a result of the investigation, Couture was placed under arrest and charged with assault with a dangerous weapon, carrying a loaded firearm without a license, carrying a firearm while intoxicated, improper storage of a firearm, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, operating under the influence of liquor (2nd offense), possession of an open container of alcohol inside of a vehicle.

No one was injured as a result of this incident. The arresting officer was Darren Emond.

State to host training seminar in New Bedford for candidates for municipal

office

The Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance (OCPF) will hold a training seminar on the state's filing and depository system for municipal candidates (incumbents and new candidates) on Wednesday, September 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the public meeting room on the 3rd floor of the New Bedford Free Public Library, 613 Pleasant Street. The New Bedford seminar is one of a series of training seminars OCPF is holding across the state.

The seminar is expected to last approximately an hour and will include review of the disclosure rules for raising and spending money, and the regulations concerning political activity by public employees and in public buildings. It will also include a demonstration of OCPF's e-filing and reporting software. Candidates who file paper reports with their local election office can also use R6 to create and print reports.

Candidates for public office are required to organize with the Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance. The training seminar is an opportunity for elected officials, candidates, campaign managers, treasurers or anyone interested in politics to learn about the requirements of campaign finance disclosure and to ask any questions they may have about record keeping and completing mandated reports. Representatives of the OCPF will be on hand to review the rules and regulations of campaign finance as required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 55.

Attendees will learn how to complete required reports including Summary Activity, Schedule A (receipts), Schedule B (expenditures), Schedule C (in-kind), Contributions and Schedule D (Liabilities). OCPF representatives will answer any questions concerning campaign finance, filing requirements and other guidelines.

The seminar will also cover topics including the role public employees may play in a campaign, how ballot question committees work under campaign finance law, prohibition against use of public resources to support or oppose candidates or questions on the ballot. This seminar is open to the public and anyone interested can attend.

For more information, please contact the City of New Bedford Board of Election Commissioners at 508-979-1420.

Three new police officers added to the Acushnet Police Department

Yesterday, the Acushnet Police Department announced the addition of three new police officers:

“The Acushnet Police Department is proud to introduce our three newest Full-time police officers. Patrolman Quinn Indio, Patrolman Michael Lajoie, and Patrolman Kevin Martins.

The officers successful completion of the Plymouth Police Academy was the culmination of a challenging 6-month police academy! Congratulations to our three newest officers!!” – Acushnet Police Department

Steve Martins not running ... Debora Coelho breathes a sigh of relief

If you are a New Bedford political junkie like me, you know that Steven Martins running for at-Large city council would have likely knocked out current at-Large Debora Coelho.

After pulling nomination papers and getting 50 signatures in 30 minutes two weeks ago, Former Ward 2 City Councilor Steven Martins decided not to file officially for New Bedford's October 1st at-Large City Council race. Coelho's chances of finishing in the top 5 went from not likely to more than likely. She can breathe a sigh of relief.

For at-Large City Council the top 5 vote-getters are elected to office. In 2017, Coelho finished at the bottom of the elected pack.

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Finishing in the 5th spot makes your the "bubble" candidate – the one most likely to have been replaced if a stronger, well-known candidate had entered the race.

This year, Ian Abreu, Linda Morad, and Brian Gomes will finish

significantly higher than Coelho. While Naomi Carney had a less than 100 vote advantage on Coelho in 2017, her son **Sean Carney is running for Ward 4 City Council** and will likely help the turn out for his mom. That makes Coelho the most vulnerable at-Large incumbent in 2019.

While Martins is out, there are **six non-incumbents vying for a spot on the City Council as an at-Large candidate**; Russell Dearing, Leo Choquette Jr., Paul Chasse, Carlos Felix, Lisa White, and Michael Janson. It's a much stronger field this year than in 2017 when only two non-incumbents ran. Let's see who emerges from the non-incumbent to challenge the bubble candidate Debora Coelho.

New Bedford Elections Office: “Special election would cost city \$50,000-60,000”

In a statement, New Bedford's Elections Commissioner Manuel DeBrito explained the rules for candidates running for two elected offices and the \$50,000-60,000 price tag to the City should a candidate win both elections. While not directly saying so, it's in response to current **at-Large City Councilor Brian Gomes choosing to run for both Mayor and at-large City Council in the October 1 preliminary election.**

“My office has received multiple inquiries regarding a candidate's ability to run for multiple offices during a municipal election. While I have verbally shared my thoughts, I wanted to make an official statement on the matter.

It is a longstanding common-law rule that due to the nature of

their duties one person may not hold the offices of Mayor and City Councilor at the same time. And, while the City Charter does not expressly prohibit a person from submitting nomination papers for the two offices simultaneously, historically candidates who may have considered this option have weighed the issues it presents and have ultimately chosen not to run for both offices in the same election.

In weighing the decision of whether to run for dual offices, a candidate may consider State Ethics Laws, Campaign Finance Laws, and the potential cost to the city of \$50,000-60,000 for a special election should they be elected to both offices.”

Six file officially for New Bedford's mayor race

Six residents officially filed to run for Mayor of New Bedford by today's 5 pm deadline. For the first time, the winner will serve four years instead of two.

Four-term incumbent Jon Mitchell, Michael Medeiros, Richard Tyson Moultrie, Jose Perez, and David Pimental filed officially by today's 5 pm deadline. Current at-Large city councilor **Brian Gomes filed officially for mayor and at-Large City Council**. Michael Janson did not file officially for mayor but did turn in papers for at-Large City Council.

At least three candidates were needed for a preliminary election on October 1. Candidates still have until September 3rd to withdraw their nomination, so the preliminary election is likely, but not certain. The top two vote-getters in the preliminary election will move on to the November 5 municipal election.

11 candidates officially file for at-large New Bedford City Councilor

Eleven candidates filed officially for New Bedford at-Large City Council by today's 5 pm deadline forcing a preliminary election on October 1st. Former Ward 2 councilor Steven Martins did not file officially by today's 5 pm deadline reducing the number of at-large candidates from 12 to 11.

Incumbents Ian Abreu, Naomi Carney, Debora Coelho, and City Council President Linda Morad filed officially. **Incumbent Brian Gomes filed officially for at-Large and mayor.**

Non-incumbents Russell Dearing, Leo Choquette Jr., Paul Chasse, Carlos Felix, Lisa White, and Michael Janson also filed officially.

The Preliminary Election is October 1st. September 3rd is the last day to withdraw – if one person withdraws there will not be a preliminary election. The top 10 vote-getters move on to the Municipal Election on November 5th. The top 5 vote-getters become at-Large City Councilors.

Addiction awareness rally and

walk in New Bedford

A large crowd gathered at the New Bedford City Hall this evening and then walked to the Pilgrim church to raise awareness of addiction.