

# **PACE seeking candidates for election to the Board of Directors**

PACE is seeking candidates for the PACE Board of Directors. Candidates will be elected to serve as Low Income representatives through a new election process during the month of March. Candidates must be residents of the City of New Bedford, be at least 18 years old and submit a candidate profile before February 16, 2018. The election of candidates to the PACE Board will occur during the month of March as PACE clients and other low income City residents will be voting at the Main Office of PACE at 166 William Street during regular business hours. Any low income resident of New Bedford is eligible to vote in this new election process and may request a ballot any time during regular business hours during the month of March. Proof of low income status is required for low income voters who are not clients of a PACE program. Low Income Board representatives are eligible for a \$25 stipend for each Board meeting attended to cover transportation and child care costs.

**Candidate Profile forms can be obtained at the Main Office of PACE, at 166 William Street during regular business hours.** Proof of residency of New Bedford is required. Completed Candidate Profiles must be received by the PACE Election Committee, located at 166 William Street, New Bedford by 4 PM on Wednesday, February 16, 2018. All qualified candidates for election will be placed on a ballot with their Candidate Profile. Candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to serve on the PACE Board.

People Acting In Community Endeavors Inc., (PACE) The Community Action Agency for the Greater New Bedford Area, is entering its thirty sixth year of service to the community.

The Agency serves the towns of Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester as well as the city of New Bedford.

PACE, as it is known today, was incorporated on May 2, 1982, as a private

Not For Profit Organization. The community selected the Board of Directors, with the mission of establishing an organization that would advocate for low-income people and aggressively seek out funding to reduce the problems that the low-income population in New Bedford. The Board oversees the work of the Agency and charts its course for the future.

PACE offers FREE services to the community through its Programs including:

- Housing Search for the homeless or tenancy issues.
- Fuel Assistance for payment assistance associated with home heating bills
- Emergency Food Bank
- Head Start for income eligible families for early care educational instruction
- Child Care Works for educational development and Child Care Services
- The Family Center for parent and family support services
- Youth Build for “at risk youth” focusing on educational and community service
- Health Access Services for the uninsured
- Tax Assistance Program through VITA
- The Clemente Course in the Humanities
- Grassroots support for other community organizations

PACE Community Housing Corp., which was created for smaller housing development projects and home ownership opportunities for low-income people

PACE employs a staff of 175 in addition to over 100 volunteers, and serves more than 40,000 clients who seek PACE

services yearly with an annual budget in excess of \$65,000,000.00.!

According to Bruce Morell, PACE Executive Director; "The Board of Directors has developed a new process to elect representatives of the low income population to serve on our Board of Directors. Board members with direct contact to the people we serve, or who are recipients of a PACE service themselves, are valuable in providing direction and feedback about the services we provide in the community. This election process should be very exciting as we expect that there will be many low income individuals voting for their own representatives to the Board. PACE Board Members serve their community and the Agency with pride and distinction with a real commitment to the clients who put their trust in the Organization to assist them with their needs. We are very proud of our Board of Directors".

Elections will be held month long in March 2018 at the PACE Main Office at 166 William Street, New Bedford during regular business hours.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL PACE; 508-999-9920**

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**New Bedford residents can now use BayCoast Bank Interactive Teller Machines (ITMs) for utility, real estate,**

# personal property, excise taxes

Effective immediately, New Bedford residents can now utilize two BayCoast Bank Interactive Teller Machine (ITM) locations for certain payments. Residents who are unable to come to City Hall during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) can take advantage of this option to make payments at BayCoast's ITM locations at 23 Elm Street in New Bedford, 714 Dartmouth Street in Dartmouth, or at any of its other ITM locations in Fall River, Seekonk, Attleboro, and Little Compton, RI. Visit [www.baycoastbank.com](http://www.baycoastbank.com) or call 508-678-7641 or 888-806-2872 for more information.

The ITMs accept cash or checks; the ITMs combine the convenience of a traditional ATM with the personal service of banking for customers, allowing the customer to see and talk to a real person through a video monitor.

"We're happy to help make tax payments easier for New Bedford residents, by accepting payments at our Interactive Teller Machines," said Ann Ramos-Desrosiers, Chief Community Banking Officer at BayCoast. "Now residents can make their payments as early as 7 a.m. and as late as 7 p.m. on weekdays, and on Saturdays between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. at our Elm Street branch – or any of our ITMs throughout the Southcoast."

"BayCoast Bank has served as an alternate payment center for the residents of the City of New Bedford for many years," said Renee Fernandes, Treasurer-Collector for the City. "The ability to utilize the new ITM technology for City payments, especially when city offices are closed, provides our customers with greater flexibility."

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# **HELP WANTED: City of New Bedford is hiring for a Motor Equipment Repair person**

**PAY: \$16.45hr – \$22.57hr**

Inspects and troubleshoots gasoline internal combustion engine-powered equipment; performs tune-ups; repairs electrical systems; adjusts and replaces brakes, clutches and carburetors; performs front-end work as needed for repairs. Removes and replaces clutches and transmissions; removes and disassembles gasoline engines; replaces faulty or worn parts. Also performs duties on large heavy equipment such as dump trucks, garbage packers, front-end loaders and backhoes.

Subject to call for emergency work during any given twenty-four hour work period, such as any emergency that the Commissioner feels would impair the safety of the general public, i.e. ice or snowstorms.

High school graduate or GED equivalent and two years of full-time paid experience in the field of repairing heavy equipment; or any equivalent combination of education and experience.

Knowledge of job hazards, handling of equipment, special tools and test equipment. Thoroughly familiar with hand and power tool safe-working methods. Ability to write detailed reports, and prepare, comprehend and evaluate records. Ability to use sound judgment in applying knowledge and skills in all types of situations. Ability to work well with co-workers.

Possession of a valid Massachusetts driver's license and good

driving record.

Motorized vehicles for mechanical testing purposes, power and hand tools, and equipment for vehicle and mechanical system work; mechanic's tools including jacks, hydraulic lifts, air tools and other tools required for minor repairs and routine maintenance of motorized vehicles; electrical vehicle diagnostic equipment.

For application/complete job description, please visit [www.newbedford-ma.gov](http://www.newbedford-ma.gov) or contact the Personnel Dept., 133 William St., Room 212, 508-979-1444. Applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate is found. EE0

New Bedford has a residency requirement.

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## **HELP WANTED: City of New Bedford is hiring for a Diesel Engine Repair Mechanic**

**PAY: \$17.16hr – \$23.82hr**

Performs skilled repairs of various types of diesel equipment, including electrical, fuel, ejector and ignition problems. Determines repair costs. Disassembles, overhauls, removes and replaces all types of engines. Assembles and disassembles transmissions. Performs other preventive maintenance work such as truck replacements and components, brake jobs and miscellaneous tasks related to the work.

Two years of full-time paid experience in the field of repairing heavy equipment. Knowledge of various hydraulic systems and clutch replacements/components. Knowledge of job

hazards, handling of equipment, special tools and test equipment. Must be fully capable of writing detail reports and capable of estimating repair costs. Must have the ability to use sound judgment in applying knowledge and skills in all types of situations. Must have the proper Registry classification for road test repaired equipment and be physically fit to perform the duties of this position.

Possession of a valid Massachusetts driver's license with good driving record. Possession of or ability to obtain Class B CDL within six months from date of hire. Subject to call for emergency work during any given twenty-four hour work period, as determined by the Commissioner.

For application/complete job description, please visit [www.newbedford-ma.gov](http://www.newbedford-ma.gov) or contact the Personnel Dept., 133 William St., Room 212, 508-979-1444. Applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate is found. EE0

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## **Buttonwood Park Zoo to introduce sloth to its new home**

On Friday, January 26th at 10:45 AM, the Buttonwood Park Zoo will introduce Bernardo, a 16 year-old male sloth, to his new home in the Zoo's Rainforests, Rivers & Reefs building. Zoo Director, Keith Lovett along with animal care staff have given Bernardo a clean bill of health and are now ready to introduce him to his new home in the building's Brazil habitat. Rainforests, Rivers & Reefs sponsored by Stoico/FIRSTFED

introduces guests to unique species found in the rainforests and rivers of South America through four naturalistic, multi-species habitats representing countries of South America. Bernardo is the first sloth to call the Buttonwood Park Zoo home.

Bernardo arrived at the Zoo in mid-December and has been under quarantine, a process that is implemented in zoos and aquariums worldwide to ensure the health of existing species. All new arrivals to the Zoo undergo a thirty-day quarantine or observation period which includes examinations and diagnostic tests. The quarantine process provides Zoo staff the opportunity to assess the health of the incoming animal and ensure the health and safety of those already residing at the Zoo. It also allows the animal to acclimate to their new home and for animal care staff to observe their behaviors and develop a relationship.

Bernardo joins the Buttonwood Park Zoo as part of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums Species Survival Plan (SSP). Zoo staff will work with AZA to develop a breeding program at the Zoo to ensure a healthy and genetically diverse population both in captivity and in the wild.

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## **HELP WANTED: the New Bedford Department of Facilities & Fleet Management is hiring for an Account Clerk position**

**PAY: \$15.23hr – \$20.61hr**

Applies basic accounting principles in maintaining financial accounts and records; may be required to prepare payroll and maintain personnel records; makes general ledger entries; accounts for receipt and disbursement of cash transactions and cash accounts; reconciles cash books; operates adding machines and computers; answers telephones; operates simple calculators in connection with this work. Performs clerical work of ordinary difficulty.

Graduation from a high school or GED equivalent with specialized course work in general office practices such as typing, accounting, data processing, and two years of increasingly responsible related experience; or any equivalent combination of education and experience. Mandatory CORI (Criminal Offender Record Investigation) background check per City Council Ordinance effective May 14, 2013.

For application/complete job description, please visit [www.newbedford-ma.gov](http://www.newbedford-ma.gov) or contact the Personnel Dept., 133 William St., Room 212, 508-979-1444. Applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate is found. New Bedford has a residency requirement. EE0

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## **New Bedford to conduct annual Point-in-Time Count for 2018**

The City of New Bedford will be conducting its annual Point-in-Time Count of persons experiencing homelessness for the year 2018 tomorrow, Wednesday, January 24, from 2:00 p.m. until Thursday, January 25 at 2:00 p.m., a 24-hour count. The Point-in-Time Count is required annually by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) and is

conducted nationwide during the last 10 days of the January.

The National “Let’s Make Everyone Count” will include dozens of teams of volunteers and community members that will gather with city officials to launch the 2018 homeless census efforts on Wednesday, January 24 at 12:00pm on the front steps of New Bedford’s Main Library.

“The Point-in-Time Count is an important part of ensuring that all homeless individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness are counted in a respectful manner,” said Mayor Jon Mitchell. “We also use this census-taking event as an important way to raise awareness around the issue of homelessness in our community.”

The Point-in-Time Count (PIT) is conducted in New Bedford through the efforts of the New Bedford Homeless Continuum of Care, known as the Homeless Service Providers Network (HSPN). The HSPN is convened and staffed by the City’s Department of Planning, Housing and Community Development.

The New Bedford PIT Homeless Count helps identify vulnerable groups by conducting surveys that provide demographics characteristics, homeless history, homeless experiences and other vital information. The census counts both sheltered and unsheltered individuals and families experiencing homelessness on a given night. The information collected through the PIT Count is used to help measure New Bedford’s progress towards ending homelessness and to help strategically focus future planning efforts toward that end. Typically the data collected through these efforts provides a reliable snapshot of both sheltered and unsheltered individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

Immediately following the city’s kick-off, volunteers and members of the community will reconvene at this year’s Point-in-Time Coordination Center located at Positive Action Against Chemical Addiction (PAACA) building at 360 Coggeshall Street.

At 2:00pm, teams of volunteers will begin the 24 hour count and disperse throughout the city to survey individuals and families currently residing on the streets and in other locations not meant for human habitation within the city.

Building off the success and lessons learned from previous counts, the HSPN's PIT Committee is holding a resource event for those experiencing homelessness at PAACA on January 24 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Point-In-Time Count and Resource Fair is an opportunity for both those within the homeless community and volunteers to interact. The PIT Resource Fair is a multi-faceted event that includes a variety of resources, food provided by the Sister Rose Shelter, health services by the Wellness Van, foot care, haircuts, music and more. The PIT Resource Fair is more than an opportunity for free services but should be viewed as an awareness campaign and opportunity to build bridges between both communities.

The PIT Committee continues to partner with both Mobile, Loaves & Fishes and Catholic Social Services' Sister Rose Shelter in order to spread the word among those within the homeless community as to the importance of the count and when it will take place. Instead of only looking for persons experiencing homelessness, both groups have already begun encouraging those whom they serve to participate in the count, directing them to the PIT Coordination Center and other locations throughout the city where volunteers will be stationed. It is anticipated that this approach, coupled with traditional community engagement, will produce the most accurate and robust data.

Both the successful count in 2017 and the anticipated success of this year's PIT is attributed to extensive planning, volunteer training, and the receipt of donations from the community. In preparation for the Count, the PIT Committee has held weekly planning work sessions since November to plan the overall logistics of the count, identify "hot spots", gather donation items, and recruit volunteers. As a result of these

efforts, the PIT Committee has successfully recruited and trained over 60+ dedicated volunteers for the homeless count. In addition, numerous local business and organizations have graciously donated gift cards, clothing, backpacks, and other essential supplies that will either be placed in backpacks to be donated to those being counted or handed out during the course of the count.

Patrick J. Sullivan, Director of Planning, Housing and Community Development, notes that “the Point-in-Time Count provides an important one day snapshot of those experiencing homelessness in New Bedford’ in a way that helps us understand both general demographics of those being counted as well as specific characteristics of those individuals and families in these situations so that we may strategically act to reduce those numbers and eventually end homelessness in our city.”

For more information about the count, please contact Joseph Maia at (508) 979-1500 or at [jose.maia@newbedford-ma.gov](mailto:jose.maia@newbedford-ma.gov); for more information about what the city’s HSPN is doing about homelessness, please go to [www.nbhspn.com](http://www.nbhspn.com).

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## **New Bedford Police and other area organizations bring donations, support to storm-ravaged Puerto Rico**

Thanks to generous donations by New Bedford area residents, supplies were donated to nearly 4,000 families in Puerto Rico who are still struggling with the aftereffects of Hurricane Maria, which devastated the island last summer.

New Bedford Police Det. Gene Fortes was among the community leaders who brought supplies to island residents, many of whom are still without power and basic supplies. The supplies were collected through a fill the truck drive at the police headquarters parking lot last summer and through subsequent donations.



*Conditions on the island remain challenging.*

"I was very grateful and honored to represent the New Bedford Police Department and the City of New Bedford in my home nation of Puerto Rico," Det. Fortes said. "This was a very rewarding effort to help people who are still struggling with the aftereffects of the hurricane but are determined to rebuild their lives."

Det. Fortes grew up in Puerto Rico and came to the continental

U.S. at age 18 to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps. He has lived here since.

Island residents have been resilient, surviving and even thriving during more than 135 days in some places without electricity and water, Det. Fortes said.

Calls for food and supplies to help storm-affected residents generated an outpouring of generosity. Hundreds of New Bedford area residents rallied and collected supplies and resources to send to people in need in Puerto Rico.

The supplies were distributed to 19 towns: Juana Diaz, Ponce, Yauco, Caguas, Villalba, Orocovitz, Adjuntas, Loiza, Tao Baja, Guanica, Manati, Maricao, Santa Isabel, Santurce, Aibonito, Canovana, Cidra, Cayey, and Utuado.



*Det. Fortes with an elderly resident of the island.*

In addition to the New Bedford Police Department, organizations involved in the effort included Northstar Learning Centers, Inc., Edwin Cartagena and United New Bedford, Iglesia Vida del Reino, Worcester, Telemundo Providence and Puerto Rican Professional Association of Rhode

Island.

The House of Representatives in Puerto Rico gave a shout out to NBPD for their efforts.

The experience was an emotional one for Gisette Mejias of New Bedford, who was representing Iglesia Vida del Reino of Worcester. As a former resident of Puerto Rico, she said she was sad to see people in need of basic supplies but touched by her culture's resiliency and generosity. "Although people may not have much, they share with everyone else," she said. "It was an honor to serve my country."

Det. Fortes was especially touched by the image of a church literally torn from its foundation by the storm's impact. The church is now just a shell, exposed to the elements on all sides. But every week, residents visit their church to worship and pray.

The island still needs help and Det. Fortes urges people not to forget about them. More visits to distribute supplies and help rebuild the island are planned, he said.



*The church was ripped from its foundation, but the foundation*

*of the church parishioners gathering for community and comfort remains.*

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## **Preferred Residential Network – Adult Family Care provides a logical way for loved ones to get the care they need in the comfort of their own home**

Problem #1 – Living home alone with the activity of daily living (ADL) needs such as bathing, ambulating, transferring, etc. is sometimes simply almost impossible.

Problem #2 – Taking care of a loved one with activity of daily living needs while working a full-time job is almost impossible.

Solution: Preferred Residential Network's adult foster care offered by MassHealth will develop a plan, visit monthly, and pay the caregiver a tax-free financial stipend between \$600-\$1,500 per month.



**BOB GAW**  
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

If you or someone you know is in need of help with such things as eating, bathing, ambulating, etc. then Preferred Residential Network can help. Preferred Residential Network of Fall River is a premier adult foster care company with a reputation for offering superior service.

They also offer a unique program sponsored by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to help with caregiver compensation: MassHealth will pay you from \$600 to \$1,500 per month to help these individuals. Preferred Residential Network is a family oriented agency that trains and compensates caregivers who are caring for friends or relatives whether they are 18 or 80 years of age.



No adult wants to have to rely on someone and it's difficult enough to ask friends or family to help out – we know they have their own busy lives and commitments – so having them serve in a professional capacity makes things even harder. As anyone who has served as a caregiver or gone above and beyond to help a friend or family in need, they know there is much more to it than simply stopping by on occasion. There is a significant amount of time and availability that is required and there certainly is quite a bit of know-how involved – an expertise no one knows better than registered nurses

If you know someone taking care of a friend or loved one on Mass Health, Preferred Residential Network can help with caregiver training and oversight by their registered nurses and licensed social workers as well as a financial stipend.

A simple phone call could lead to a life changing improvement in the care someone you love needs. Instead of sending them off to live in an unfamiliar setting, give them the comfort of getting the care they need right in their own home. If you're considering assistance to make life a little easier than Preferred Residential Network is the way to go. You'll be

pleasantly surprised with what PRN offers.

Their registered nurses and licensed social workers work as a team to develop customized care plans to help keep the members out of long-term care facilities. Call PRN today to find out if you qualify for a Mass health caregiver financial stipend between \$600-\$1500 per month.



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## **Preferred Residential Network**

218 Shove St

Fall River, Massachusetts

Phone: (508) 679-6185

*Monday-Friday: 9:00am-5:00pm*

*Saturday & Sunday: CLOSED.*

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/prnafc/](https://facebook.com/prnafc/)

**Website:** [prnafc.com](https://prnafc.com)

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## **New Bedford police investigating homicide of 34-year old woman**

New Bedford Police and Massachusetts State Police Troopers assigned to this office and Homicide Unit prosecutors are actively investigating a homicide, which occurred in The City of New Bedford early this morning.

New Bedford Police and EMS responded to 387 Ashley Boulevard around 1:19 am today in response to calls regarding a woman screaming and bleeding outside of that residence. The Wareham

woman, later identified as 34-year-old Chantel Bruno, was rushed to St. Luke's Hospital, where she pronounced dead as a result of stab wounds at around 2:30 this morning.

The investigation is being coordinated by Assistant District Attorney Jason Mohan.