

New Bedford Police Department is hiring, deadline for civil service test approaching

“**DEADLINE FOR CIVIL SERVICE TEST APPLICATION
APPROACHING*****

In order to become a New Bedford police officer, one must take the Massachusetts civil service entry-level exam. The test is in March, and the deadline to apply is JANUARY 17th!!

Please follow this link. The New Bedford Police Department is hiring and we need you to be a part of its next generation. Feel free to contact us with any questions.

PLEASE SHARE!” -City of New Bedford Police Department.

3 Law Enforcement Officers from South Shore, Massachusetts communities, pass away suddenly

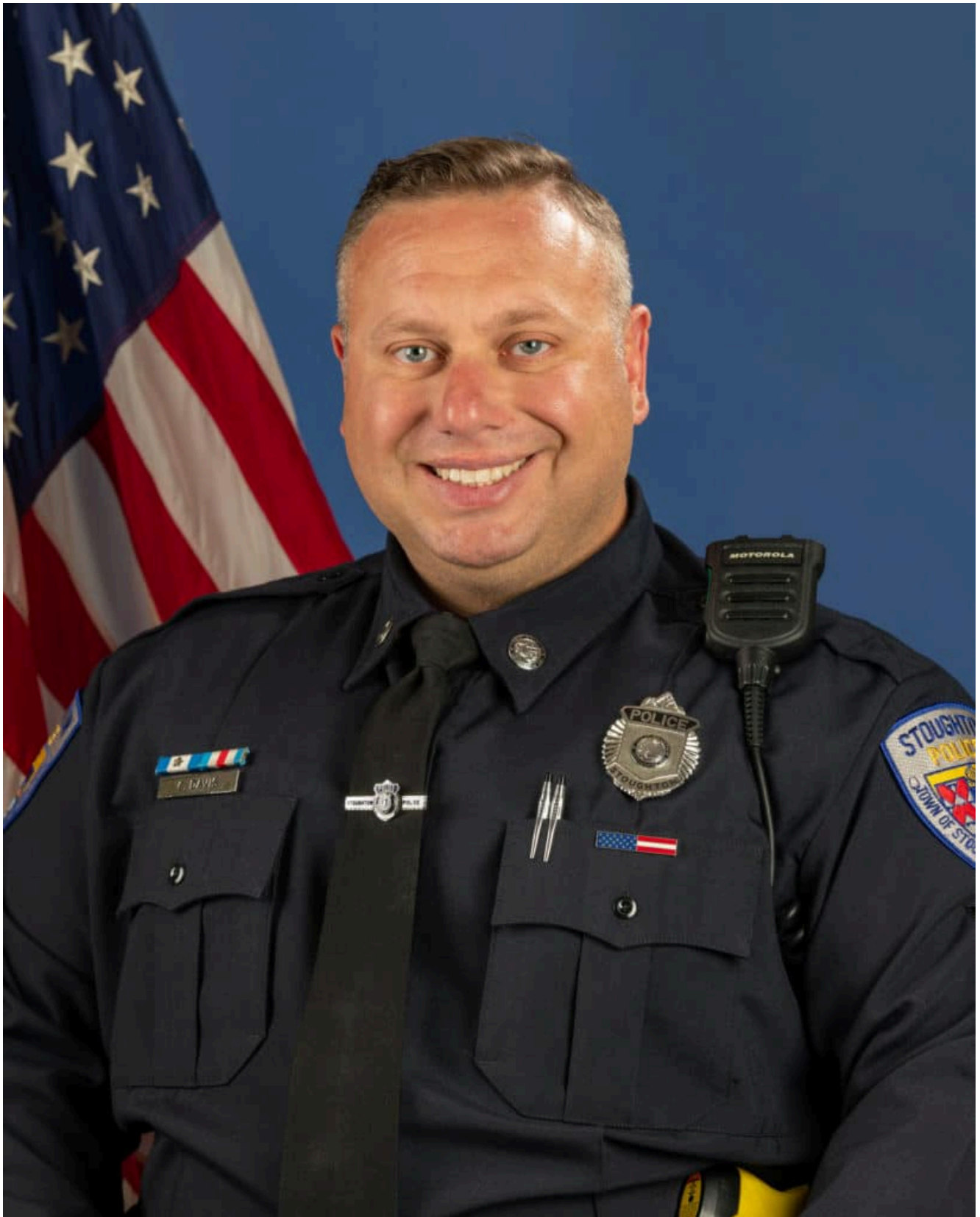
“This week has been a difficult one in the Massachusetts Law Enforcement community.

Three active-duty Law Enforcement Officers, all from South Shore communities, passed away suddenly within the last seven days. One of whom, 25-year-old Officer John F. Santos of The Plymouth County Sheriff’s Department, would have been a member

of the Massachusetts State Police 88th Recruit Training Troop. He would have undoubtedly served a long and distinguished career with this department.

On Wednesday, December 28, 2022, Officer Santos passed away at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston after succumbing to a Brain Aneurysm. He was also a member of the United States Air Force, reaching the rank of Staff Sergeant, and served overseas in 2019. Officer Santos has a fiancé and an unborn son.

On Thursday, December 29, 2022, Officer Sean Besarick, a 24-year veteran of the Brockton Police Department, passed away suddenly at the age of 48-years-old. Officer Besarick was long-time member of the Brockton Community, graduating from Brockton High School in 1992 before serving in the United States Navy for six years. He became a member of the Brockton Police Department in 1998. Officer Besarick is married and has two daughters.



Officer Christopher A. Davis, a 17-year veteran of the Stoughton Police Department. Massachusetts State Police photo. On Saturday December 31, 2022, Officer Christopher A. Davis, a 17-year veteran of the Stoughton Police Department, passed away at the Good Samaritan Medical Center in Brockton at the age of 42-years-old. He was a member of the Stoughton Police

Special Operations Unit and was the department's defensive tactics instructor.

Additionally, he has served as a certified arson investigator, investigating fire incidents alongside the Stoughton Fire Department since 2011. He has been awarded numerous commendations from the SPD during his 17 years of service, including a Distinguished Service Award in 2012. Officer Davis has a fiancé and a daughter.

The Massachusetts State Police offer our most sincere condolences to the family, friends, and coworkers of these three dedicated service members. May they rest in peace." - Massachusetts State Police.

Gov. Baker signs law making Massachusetts roads safer for the “vulnerable”

Just before leaving office on Monday, Governor Charlie Baker Gov. signed a new law aimed at making roads safer for the “vulnerable,” those not using cars, i.e. cyclists, pedestrians, road construction workers, those in a wheelchair, on skateboards or rollers skates, motorized scooters or anyone riding a horse or horse-drawn carriages. Before this bill Massachusetts law only considered cyclists as vulnerable road users.

The bill, known as H.5103 is an attempt to reduce road injuries and fatalities on Massachusetts roads.

According to MassDOT data, in the first 6 months of 2022

alone, there were 175 deaths. While bicyclist fatalities have dropped from 9-6 in the past year – likely due to designated lanes painted on the road, pedestrian deaths rising from 56 to 63.

The new bill will require that drivers leave at least four feet of distance to pass and of the above-mentioned road users, that they will do so at a “reasonable speed,” that doesn’t exceed the speed limit, and only when it’s safe. The state will implement new road signs to remind drivers of this four-foot rule.

Some other notable aspects of the bill include:

- Requiring cyclists use rear-facing red lights at night.
- Creating a framework for municipalities to ask the state to modify speed limits on state-controlled roads within their borders.
- Truck drivers will have to add backup cameras and more mirrors to mitigate blind spots.
- Tractor-trailer drivers utilize lateral protective devices that block the open space between a large trailer’s wheel which will stop bicyclists from getting caught between the rear wheels of a turning truck.
- Include measures in driver’s education requirements so new drivers adopt those behaviors from the start.

The law is considered in effect immediately, so that means fines and citations will be handed out straight away.

MassDoT to close bridge over

the Acushnet River for years to facilitate replacement operations

Closure will begin on Monday, January 9, and is needed to facilitate bridge replacement operations. Bridge is anticipated to be closed through September 2025 with detours in place.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing it will begin work on the Hamlin Street Bridge located over the Acushnet River in Acushnet. The work will begin on Monday, January 9, 2023, and is anticipated to be completed by September 2025. The scheduled work will include the complete replacement of the Hamlin Street Bridge over the Acushnet River and a nearby culvert.

The bridge will be closed on January 9, and a detour will be implemented for the duration of construction. The detour will be as follows:

Traffic originating from the east side of the bridge:

- Continue southbound on Main Street.
- Follow to the intersection of Tarklin Hill Road and Belleville Avenue in New Bedford.
- Take a right onto Belleville Avenue.
- Follow Belleville Avenue to Middle Road.
- Take a right onto Middle Road into Acushnet and follow to Hamlin Street.

Traffic originating from the west side of the bridge:

- Continue southbound on Middle Road to Belleville Avenue in New Bedford.
- Take a left onto Belleville Avenue and follow to the intersection with Tarklin Hill Road.
- Take a left onto Tarklin Hill Road to Main Street in

Acushnet.

- Continue on Main Street to Hamlin Street.

For information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to:

- Dial 511 before heading out onto the roadways and select a route to hear real-time conditions.
- Visit www.mass511.com, a website which provides real-time traffic and incident advisory information, access to traffic cameras, and allows users to subscribe to text and email alerts for traffic conditions.
- Follow MassDOT on Twitter @MassDOT to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

Download MassDOT's GoTime mobile app and view real-time traffic conditions before setting out on the road. T

City of New Bedford hosting community forums for FY23 Action Plan, HOME-ARP Allocation plan

"The City of New Bedford's Office of Housing and Community Development is hosting two (2) identical public meetings in January to discuss its FY23 Annual Action Plan and its HOME-ARP Allocation Plan.

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) provides \$5 billion to assist individuals or households who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, and other vulnerable populations, by providing housing, rental assistance, supportive services, and non-

congregate shelter, to reduce homelessness and increase housing stability across the country. These grant funds will be administered through HUD's HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME).

A City Action Plan addresses a wide range of short and long-term measures, with the aim of preventing plastic from entering the environment, waterways and ultimately, the ocean.

We hope you will take the time to join us for one of these two sessions; we want to hear what you think are the greatest housing and community development needs and priorities within the City of New Bedford and to solicit resident and stakeholder input to help shape the design of the City's HOME-ARP Allocation Plan!

Please join us at one of the following Community Meetings—both cover the same information:

January 10th, 2023, Tuesday

Carney Academy at 6.00pm In Person
247 Elm Street – New Bedford MA

January 11th, 2023, Wednesday

Community Meeting via Zoom at 6.00pm
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83041179361?pwd=NUsxQ2tSYTlGSUdzTXBQalBwNUwyUT09>
Meeting ID: 830 4117 9361 Passcode: 463504

The FY2023 RFP (proposal application) will be made available online at the OHCD website at <https://www.newbedford-ma.gov/housing-community-development/> beginning Tuesday evening, January 10h.

For your convenience, attached are copies of the Community Forum flyer in three languages—English, Portuguese, and Spanish—that provide additional information and notice of the RFP Workshops.

For more information, please contact Joshua Amaral, Director at Joshua.Amaral@newbedford-ma.gov or Jennifer Clarke, Deputy Director Community Development, at Jennifer.Clarke@newbedford-ma.gov.

Freetown Fire Department Chief Gary Silvia retires after more than 40 years of service

“Monday marks the official last day for our Chief, Gary Silvia, after more than 40 years of dedicated service to the town of Freetown.

The Chief was one of the four original charter members of Local 3213 and remained active with the union even when promoted to a management position. Throughout the Chief’s career, he has provided the department with additional staffing, new apparatus, state-of-the-art equipment, and countless hours of training and knowledge of the fire service.

Chief Silvia is the definition of a leader and someone who brought a calming presence to even the most chaotic situations. The Chief has always been a “working chief” and was never afraid to jump in and do the dirty work. Once, he single-handedly made a quick stop at a structure fire after performing a primary search (alone) and contained the fire until additional help arrived -he hates the recognition for this fire, but it was truly remarkable.

While we hate to see him leave, it’s time for “the boss” to

enjoy his much-deserved retirement. Thanks for everything Chief, we'll see you when we see you."-Freetown Fire Department.



Freetown Fire Department photo.



Freetown Fire Department photo.

Bristol County sobriety checkpoint to further educate the motoring public, scheduled

Colonel Christopher S. Mason, Superintendent of the Massachusetts State Police, announced that a "Sobriety Checkpoint" will be implemented by the Massachusetts State Police on a Public Way in Bristol County between Saturday, January 7, 2023 into Sunday, January 8, 2023.

The purpose is to further educate the motoring public and strengthen the public's awareness to the need of detecting and removing those motorists who operate under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs from our roadways. It will be operated during varied hours, the selection of vehicles will not be

arbitrary, safety will be assured, and any inconveniences to motorists will be minimized with advance notice to reduce fear and anxiety.

Friday arrests cap off historic year for New Bedford Police Department's Drug Unit

"Detectives assigned to the "Organized Crime Intelligence Bureau" made several arrests on Friday night that have secured 2022 a place in the department's history as one of the most prolific for drug and cash seizure.

On Friday afternoon, detectives executed a search warrant at 149 Phillips Ave., apt. #2. The target of the investigation was MANNY CARDONA MOLINA, 22. A search warrant had also been secured for his vehicle. As a result, detectives located nearly 200 grams of fentanyl, packaging materials, and \$1080 in cash. MOLINA and his girlfriend, Ms. SHEILA GUARDADO, 21, were taken into custody and charged with trafficking in fentanyl in excess of 100 grams, and conspiracy to violate the controlled substance laws.

The arresting officer was Det. Samuel Algarin-Mojica.



New Bedford Police Department photo.

Later in the evening, detectives executed a search warrant at 128 Sycamore St., apt. #2, as well as a vehicle belonging to the targets of the investigation, identified as CARLOS FIGUEROA-PIZARRO, 33, and WILMARIE MARCHAN-PANTOJAS, 31.

Detectives located over 600 grams of cocaine, 50 grams of fentanyl, packaging materials, and \$3276 in cash. Both were placed under arrest and charged with trafficking cocaine in excess of 100 grams, trafficking fentanyl in excess of 36 grams, and conspiracy to violate the controlled substance laws.

The cash in both cases was seized as a result of it being proceeds from the illicit drug trade.

The arresting officer was Det. Nathaniel Almeida.

In 2022, O.C.I.B. detectives collectively seized over 20 kilos of Fentanyl and 2.5 kilos of cocaine. They have also seized over 1.4 million dollars in cash, making 2022 an extremely memorable year in this unit's history.

"We can use our digital scales to measure up all the narcotics and count all the money seized. We can give you the number of people arrested and convicted. Those are easy numbers to calculate. What we can't measure, and what is most important, is the number of lives saved. We have already seen the effects that this epidemic of poison has had on our community. So many lives taken, so many families destroyed. I encourage the public to see these numbers in those terms to have a true appreciation of how valuable proactive police work is to our city."-Chief Paul Oliveira.

"What our modest unit of hard-working detectives has done this year is remarkable. Their sustained diligence to rid New Bedford of harmful drugs, especially fentanyl, and the people who traffic them is why they are successful. Our federal partners have been a great assistance to us this year as well. I'd also thank the community for their continued tips of information passed along. It is a truly collective effort."-Lt. Justin Kagan, OCIB commander.

We remind you once more if you have any information on criminal activity in your neighborhood, the New Bedford Police

Dept. wants to hear from you. You can leave an anonymous tip on our voicemail at (508) 991-6300 Ext. 1. You can also leave a tip at our website, www.newbedfordpd.com.” -New Bedford Police Department

City of New Bedford to move New Year's Eve programming indoors due to rain forecast

The City of New Bedford is moving to indoor programming on New Year's Eve due to the rain forecast. Fireworks are still scheduled for 8:30 p.m.

Broken Glass Projections 3D mapping will be postponed to a later date.

Updated Events:

- **Vinny's Miracle Fish Puppets**

The New Bedford Whaling Museum, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Meet magical creatures, embarking on an imaginative journey into 2023.

- **Ever After Storybook Entertainment Characters**

The New Bedford Free Public Library, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Come sing, dance, and celebrate with Mirabel, Elsa, Winter Elf, and Spiderman.

<https://www.facebook.com/EverAfterStorybookEntertainment>

- **Cirque de Light**

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

A spectacle of fire and light! Improvisational fire spinning and LED performers light up the night.

- **Kaleidoscope Art and Entertainment: Magician and Face Painting**

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Expect the unexpected and lots of laughs with an interactive show that will entertain the whole family.

- **Buttonwood Brass Band**

UMass Dartmouth CVPA Star Store, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Lounge to the trio performing jazz, classical, and the Great American Songbook.

- **Toe Jam Puppet Band**

The New Bedford Whaling Museum, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Get ready for the “family fun band” in the Jacob’s Family Gallery with interactive silly songs and dancing.

- **Photo Booth**

Whaling Museum Lobby, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
funfotos2go has your keepsake special moments covered with complimentary photographs sent directly to your mobile device.
Inter Church Council Worship Service
Seamen’s Bethel, 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.

- **City of New Bedford Fireworks Display**

Head down to the bottom of Union Street just before Route 18, for ideal viewing of the spectacular fireworks over the harbor, commencing at 8:30 p.m.

“New Year’s Eve City Celebrates is a wonderful opportunity for area families and visitors to enjoy free, fun events for all ages in our historic downtown,” said Mayor Jon Mitchell. “We appreciate the generous support of Bristol County Savings Bank, which has sponsored City Celebrates for many years, and we are grateful that they are joined this year by Vineyard Wind and Claremont Companies.”

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City of New Bedford roadwork sites for the upcoming week of January 2, 2023 – January 6, 2023

The City of New Bedford has roadwork sites for the upcoming week of January 2, 2023 – January 6, 2023, and they are as follows:

City offices will be closed on Monday, January 2nd in observance of New Year's.

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

- Phillips Rd from Holly Tree Lane to Route 140

Other:

- Contractor (PA Landers) has completed all work on City projects for the close out of the construction season. No work this winter season. Road reconstruction at Clifford St (Acushnet Ave to Ashley Blvd), West St (Allen St to Priscilla St) and W. Rodney French Blvd (Cove St to Hurricane barrier street gates) will resume in the Spring of 2023.
- All work at MassDOT projects (Kings Highway, Hathaway Triangle and Rockdale x Allen) is complete for the close out of the construction season. No work this winter season. Road reconstruction will resume in the Spring of 2023.
- Contractor (various utility companies) will be working at MassDOT's Kings Highway project transferring wires to new utility pole sets. Minor traffic impacts and lane shifts 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