

Massachusetts State Police fill 4 cruisers and a school bus for “Toys 4 Tots”

“On Saturday, December 10th, Trooper Dwyer organized his first Fill-a-Cruiser/Bus type event at the Bourne barracks.

He was able to form a partnership with Toys 4 Tots and Bourne Public Schools. Amongst those in attendance were uniformed Marines, the State Police Mounted Unit, Marine Unit, K9s, motor cycle units, amongst various MSP personnel, and Bourne Public School officials. Colonel Mason also made an appearance.

The mission was accomplished as we l were able to fill 4 cruisers and an entire school bus. The toys collected will be going to Toys 4 Tots and families in the Bourne area. Thank you to the school officials helping out with the event.

The event was a major success even with the inclement weather. A special thank you to Tpr. Dwyer for setting up it all up, because of you there will be a lot of happy children these holidays!”-Massachusetts State Police.

All photos by the Massachusetts State Police:



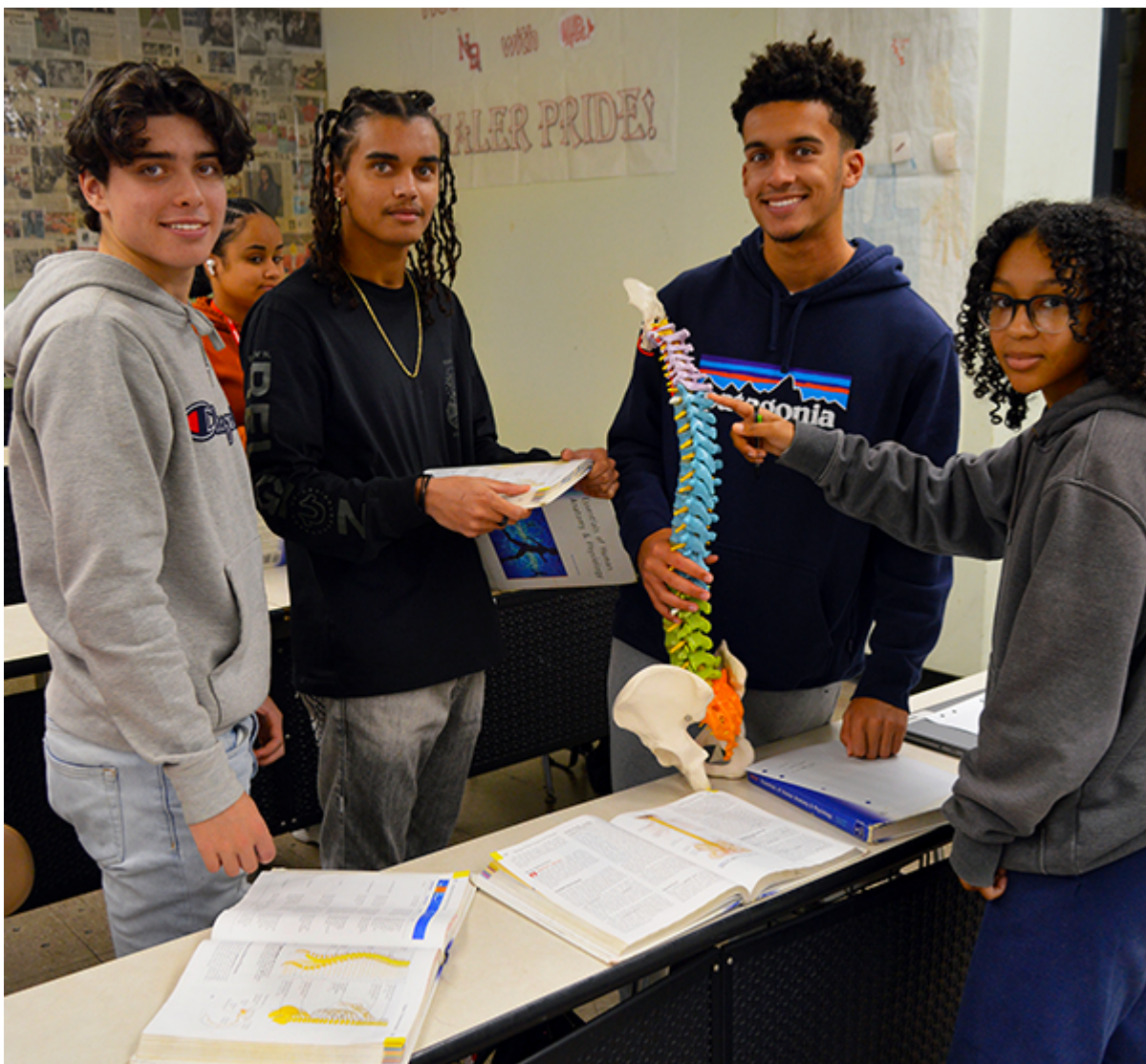
New Bedford High School awarded \$500,000 state grant for Health Sciences

"New lab to feature advanced equipment for healthcare industry skills training."

New Bedford High School has been awarded a \$500,000 grant as part of the state's Workforce Skills Cabinet Grant program,

the Baker-Polito Administration announced. The high school will utilize the funding to construct a state-of-the-art Health Sciences Laboratory to support its Career Vocational Technical Education (CVTE) programming in healthcare training. To date, the school has been awarded over \$1,000,000 in Skills Capital Grants since 2019. Previous awards include \$125,000 for the school's Finance Lab, \$275,000 for robotics logistics equipment and \$250,000 for marine technology equipment.

Mayor Jon Mitchell lauded New Bedford High's latest award, noting, "This new lab will provide New Bedford High School students with access to a university caliber science facility equipped like no other high school in the state. It will be a great asset as they prepare for careers in healthcare and the medical field."



New Bedford Public Schools photo.

Superintendent Thomas Anderson stated, "This illustrates New Bedford Public Schools' commitment to enhance student-focused improvements that target learning spaces throughout the district. This new facility will help create an environment that will further strengthen our rigorous instruction and inspire students to pursue their educational passions. And it will help prepare our students to compete on a global scale."

Principal Bernadette Coelho said, "We are thrilled to have received this fourth Skills Capital Grant to support our expanding CVTE program. Our Health Science students have experienced amazing successes, and the advanced equipment in this new lab will support and enhance their continued learning in preparation for exciting careers in the field."

Skills Capital Grants help high schools, colleges and other educational institutions invest in the most up-to-date training equipment to give their students an advantage when they continue in their chosen field or area of study. New Bedford High School's Health Sciences Lab, which will include patient simulators and 3-D interactive anatomy tables, will support career pathway development for students interested in medical and healthcare pathways, a career sector identified as a priority area by MassHire Greater New Bedford's regional labor market blueprint. The high school has offered Health Sciences within its CVTE programming as an academy connected to the National Academy Foundation since 2016.

The planned Health Sciences Lab complements New Bedford High School's growth and capital project development to foster new career vocational programming and to supplement its existing technical training offerings. In addition to the Skills Capital Grant-funded Finance, Robotics and Marine Science Labs, New Bedford High School recently completed capital projects resulting in the renovation of its television studio, as well as a new advanced manufacturing maker space and upgraded planetarium – the latter two spaces resulting from a

joint initiative between the CVTE and Science programs.

“Our new state-of-the-art Health Sciences Lab will be a welcome addition to the career technical and scientific hub of innovation based labs,” said Christopher Cummings, NBHS Career Vocational Technical Education Manager. “NBHS will engage its existing Health Science industry partners and MassHire Greater New Bedford Workforce Board to implement the new lab. It is our goal to leverage these high-tech laboratories into advanced skill training centers to prepare students for occupations in high-demand career growth areas,” he noted.

New Bedford High School offers a broad range of Career Vocational Technical Education programming, which includes state approved Chapter 74 programs in Business Technology and Radio and Television Broadcasting, National Academy Foundation affiliated programs in Health Science, Information Technology, Engineering, Finance, Hospitality, and career training programs in Early Childhood Education, Criminal Justice, and Marine Technology. For more information about Career and Technical Education at New Bedford High School, please contact Christopher Cummings, Manager of CVTE at 508 997 4511, ext. 20799.”

Flag flying in New Bedford to honor Robert H. Goodwin, MD who served during WWII

“During the month of December, the 40th Lights for Peace flag to fly at the Fort Taber – Fort Rodman Military Museum honors the memory Robert Hancock Goodwin, MD who served in both the United States Army and then the United States Navy under a

secret operation in China known as SACO (Sino-American Cooperative Organization), then continued his career in the Naval Reserve until his retirement in 1961 at the rank of Captain.

Robert was born in East Liverpool, OH, the son of the late Charles F. and Anne (Hancock) Goodwin. He was a 1925 graduate of Princeton University and received his medical degree from Harvard University in 1929. He completed his surgical internship at Boston City Hospital and his residency in obstetrics-gynecology at Boston Lying-in Hospital.

According to his obituary, Goodwin was on the medical staff of the International Grenfell Assoc., Newfoundland-Labrador, in charge of St. Anthony's, where he opened and ran the first hospital in Cartwright, Labrador from 1932-1934.

He worked as a general practitioner in Freetown from 1934-1935, prior to opening a private practice of obstetrics and gynecology to New Bedford where he practiced for 50 years from 1935-1985. During his tenure at St. Luke's Hospital, he served as Chief of Obstetrics-Gynecology, Secretary of Staff and Chief of Staff.



Provided by Robert's sister, Anne Wagner: Bob and a SACO colleague on Bactrian or Mongolian camels (two-humped) native to the Gobi Desert. Empire Ford photo.

Bob served in the U.S. Army in the 1930s then entered active duty with the U.S. Navy on August 1, 1942. He went on to serve in a highly secretive unit, known as Unit 4 under SACO, which was an organization "officially approved by Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and President Franklin Roosevelt and its articles signed in Washington on April 15, 1943," according to saconavy.net. The U.S. worked to support the political party fighting against the communist takeover of China and against Japan after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

The website explained that this "highly secret military operation was commanded by General Tai Li (Head of the Bureau of Investigation and Statistics, i.e. intelligence), as Director and then-Commander (later to become Vice Admiral) Milton Edward 'Mary' Miles as Deputy Director. Some of the Americans who walked the seemingly endless berms around the flooded rice fields declared that they had joined a 'Rice

Paddy Navy.'

The Americans lived and worked with the Chinese under cultural conditions previously unknown to each. They became dedicated brothers in arms despite limited knowlImage #1 – edge of each other's language.

Working together within China were about 2,500 American SACO servicemen (of whom 95 percent were Navy, 3 percent Marine, and 2 percent Coast Guard), 97,000 organized Chinese guerrillas, 26,000 pirates in two rival groups, and some lone-wolf saboteurs. They established weather stations, provided the vital weather information for the Pacific Fleet, successfully rescued 76 downed aviators, and were involved in numerous military, medical, and humanitarian endeavors. According to U.S. Navy figures, SACO was responsible for the death of 71,000 of the enemy. The Chinese and American members of this outfit were and are known as SACO Tigers."



Military Photo of Robert H. Goodwin, MD. Empire Ford photo.

The Saco Navy website explained that the casualty rate was extremely low. Out of the 2,873 members worldwide – including one WAVE (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service), one French naval officer, and one French army officer – only three were captured and five were killed. None of them died while on active duty in China. “This group probably holds the distinction of being the first American military unit to ever serve under a foreign leader in time of war.”

During an interview with the Standard-Times, Goodwin explained, “They said it was extra-hazardous, extra-secret and

all-volunteer duty in Asia and it involved parachute-jumping. Nobody on our side knew much about Indo-China. It was a military blank as far as Allied Intelligence was concerned. But through it ran the rail and road supply lines to Japan's Southeast Asia conquests -the line that would feed any attacks against India, among other things.

To sabotage the rail line and harass other Japanese lines of communications would be a military accomplishment of considerable value. So the idea grew: Drop a party of Americans and others into Indo-China. Besides sabotaging the Japanese, they could pick up information of high interest to Allied leaders."

The article explained that Dr. Goodwin learned things not associated with medicine, including how to blow up a train and the demolish a bridge to the use of a submachine gun and close combat fighting and lastly, parachute jumping, which he completed at a Georgia Infantry camp.

While in China, Dr. Goodwin also provided medical services to Chinese women and refugees. He specialized in gynecology and obstetrics, once delivering a baby by cesarean section with only a candle and flashlight for illumination.

Dr. Goodwin was known to his Chinese patients as Liao Daifu or Old Doctor, which he earned because he had grown a beard. In China, to call a man old is a sign of respect.

Goodwin explained that his unit trained 569 Chinese soldiers in classes of 35 each with courses lasting 10 weeks. American officers were joined by some Chinese leaders. The men were trained in demolition, the use of hand grenades, sabotage, street fighting and map reading.

According to Goodwin, his unit had no direct contact with other Americans, only radio contact, from November 1943 to January 1945, when General "Mary" Miles flew in for a visit. Shortly after, Goodwin returned home to the United States.

He was discharged in 1946 at the rank of Lieutenant Commander and continued his service in the Naval Reserve until his retirement in 1961 at the rank of Captain. He was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific ribbon with 1-star, American Theater Medal and the WWII Victory Medal.

Goodwin was featured in the book, *Saco: The Rice-Paddy Navy*, by Roy Olin Stratton, a report on the Navy's China operations.

Dr. Robert Hancock Goodwin, of Dartmouth, died on June 13, 1988, at the age of 85. He was survived by his widow, Doris, A. (Widmayer) Goodwin; a son, Robert H. Jr. of Osterville; two daughters, Anne B. Wagner of Portsmouth, RI and Susan Goodwin Fera of Dover; and five grandchildren.

Goodwin was very involved in his community. He was a member of the Wamsutta Club, the Luncheon Club, the Mutual Investment Assoc. of New Bedford. The Old Dartmouth Historical Society, WHALE and the Rotch-Jones-Duff House. He was also past president of the New Bedford Rotary Club and a Paul Harris Fellow. He was an advisory member of the Council of Coastline Elderly Services and a Dartmouth Town Meeting Member for more than 20 years. He was also a religious man and served as a Deacon and then Moderator of Padanaram Congregational Church.

He was a member of many medical organizations including the American College of Surgeons, American College of Ob-Gyn (a founding fellow); International College of Surgeons, Pan-Pacific Surgical Assoc., Obstetric Society of Boston, the American Medical Assoc., and the Massachusetts Medical Society.

Linda Ferreira, of Empire Ford of New Bedford, researches the life histories of area residents. American flags are provided by Empire Ford of New Bedford. Flags are raised by the staff at Fort Taber – Fort Rodman Military Museum. Those who would like to honor a local veteran in the future can contact

Ferreira at lferreira@buyempireautogroup.com."

**City of New Bedford
trash/recycling pick-up delay
for Christmas**



Notice

City of New Bedford
Solid Waste / Recycling Collection

Christmas Day
Sunday, December 25th, 2022

Residential Collection

Monday, Observed Holiday-No Collections

ALL Trash, Recycling & Bulky Pickup Routes
Will be delayed by one (1) day.

Commercial & Downtown Collection

Will delayed by one (1) day.

Cardboard – Monday and Tuesday will be delayed by 1 day and
Friday will be running on schedule.

Recycling Center

Yard waste, brush & branches can be brought to the
Recycling Center at 1103 Shawmut Ave anytime
during normal business hours:

Monday	noon to 5:00 PM- 12/26/22 CLOSED
Wednesday	noon to 5:00 PM
Friday	noon to 5:00 PM
Saturday	7:30 AM to 3:00 PM

City of New Bedford photo.

New Bedford roadwork sites for the upcoming week of December 19, 2022 – December 23, 2022

The City of New Bedford has roadwork sites for the upcoming week of December 19, 2022 – December 23, 2022, and they are as follows:

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

- Phillips Rd from Holly Tree Lane to Route 140

Other:

- Contractor (KR Rezendes, Inc.) will be working at MassDOT's Hathaway Triangle project located at the newly signalized intersection of Hathaway Rd x Nauset St.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be on Clifford Street from Acushnet Ave to Ashley Blvd raising structures in the roadway and stabilizing the site to wrap up for the winter season. Sidewalk reconstruction and top paving course to take place in the Spring 2023.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on West Street in the vicinity of St. Luke's Hospital raising structures in the roadway and stabilizing the site for the winter season. Final top course paving to be done in the Spring 2023.
- Contractor (PA Landers & various utility companies) will be working at the MassDOT project, Kings Highway.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on various streets, citywide, completing minor repairs and installations.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on street furniture installations on Union St from Sixth St to County St.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on hydrants at the following intersections of W. Rodney French Blvd: Welcome St,

Grit St, Warren St, George St and David St. Water supply interruptions may occur. Those services impacted by the water main shutdown will be notified 24 hours in advance.

- Contractor (JH Lynch) working at the MassDOT project for intersection improvements at Rockdale Ave x Allen St installing pavement markings.

- 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

Gov. Baker highlights 8 years of strengthening access to behavioral health services in Massachusetts

“The Baker-Polito Administration today highlighted eight years of progress strengthening access to behavioral health services in Massachusetts at a ribbon cutting for a newly designated Community Behavioral Health Center (CBHC) in East Boston run by North Suffolk Community Services (formerly North Suffolk Mental Health Association). Opening in early January as part of the implementation of the Roadmap for Behavioral Health Reform, twenty-five designated CBHCs across the Commonwealth will offer comprehensive, coordinated mental health care, substance use disorder treatment and community-based crisis intervention to all Massachusetts residents, regardless of ability to pay.

“Over the past eight years, our administration has collaborated with health care providers, medical professionals and our legislative colleagues to make sure Massachusetts treats behavioral health with the same importance as physical health,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “The implementation of the Roadmap for Behavioral Health Reform is the latest step in those efforts, which have included historic investments in clinical programming, the addition of over 3,000 treatment beds and landmark mental health legislation.”

“It’s critical we provide residents and families with access to behavioral health services so they can lead healthier lives, and we are proud of our administration’s work to do just that over the past eight years,” said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. “These investments and initiatives will continue to make a big difference for residents who need access to these services for years to come.”

“Since day one, this administration has made behavioral health a priority, and when we talk about health, it is whole health: physical and mental,” said Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders. “Through the Roadmap for Behavioral Health reform – including newly designated Community Behavioral Health Centers such as this one and the soon-to-launch Behavioral Health Help Line – we are creating a true front door to behavioral health care, so that every Massachusetts resident has access to high-quality behavioral health treatment, when and where they need it.”

As part of the implementation of the Roadmap for Behavioral Health Reform, Community Behavioral Health Centers are launching in early 2023 along with other initiatives, including a new 24/7 Behavioral Health Help Line and strengthened community based crisis intervention services.

Baker-Polito Administration’s Record Strengthening Access to Behavioral Health:

Boosted Behavioral Health Investments: Since 2015, the Baker-Polito Administration has invested more than \$26.5 billion in behavioral health across multiple initiatives and state agencies: the Department of Mental Health (DMH), the Department of Public Health (DPH), MassHealth, the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA), and the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC). The Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) budget signed by Governor Baker in July includes \$4.1 billion in behavioral health initiatives across these state agencies.

Increased Inpatient and Community Based Residential Services: Across the spectrum of behavioral health, the Administration has worked with providers to increase program capacity by more than 3,000 beds since taking office in 2015, ranging from inpatient treatment to supportive community residential services, including more than 500 additional inpatient psychiatric beds.

Roadmap for Behavioral Health Reform: In early 2021, the Administration launched the Roadmap for Behavioral Health Reform, a multi-year blueprint that is based on listening sessions and feedback from nearly 700 individuals, families, providers and other stakeholders who identified the need for expanded access to treatment, more effective treatment, and improved health equity. The goal was to create a “front door” to treatment—a new, centralized service for people or their loved ones to call, text or walk in to get connected to mental health and addiction treatment. In addition to this front door, the Roadmap proposed reforms to make outpatient assessment and treatment more readily available through a number of changes.

Three major outcomes of the Roadmap are launching in the next several weeks:

- A network of 25 Community Behavioral Health Centers in communities across the state, designated and funded by the Administration, which will serve as an entry point for timely,

high-quality and evidence-based treatment for mental health conditions and substance use disorders, including routine appointments, urgent visits, and

- 24/7 community-based crisis intervention as an alternative to hospital emergency departments.
- A new, 24/7 Behavioral Health Help Line, which will offer a single point of contact for residents to receive real-time support, initial clinical assessment, and connection to the right mental health and SUD evaluation and treatment, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. The phone and chat line will offer real-time clinical triage and service navigation in more than 200 languages to help individuals and families access the range of treatment for mental health and addiction offered in the Commonwealth, including outpatient, urgent and immediate crisis intervention.

2022 Mental Health Legislation: In 2022, Governor Baker signed An Act Addressing Barriers to Care for Mental Health. This landmark mental health reform legislation takes several steps to strengthen behavioral health treatment and access. The legislation streamlines access to acute mental health treatment, expedites behavioral health care for youth and young adults, expands behavioral health services in schools, and requires mental health parity in insurance coverage.

ARPA Resources: The first ARPA legislation signed by Governor Baker in December 2021 included \$400 million for addiction treatment and related behavioral health services, workforce, and infrastructure. Last month, the Administration announced that it is utilizing ARPA funding to support a \$130 million program loan repayment program to support and retain the behavioral health and primary care workforce. The program is being administered in partnership with the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers.

MassHealth Waiver: This past fall, the Baker-Polito

Administration received federal approval for its latest five-year Medicaid (MassHealth) Section 1115 Waiver. Valued at \$67 billion over five years, this new Waiver sustains and builds on previous efforts to strengthen access to behavioral health. It continues and strengthens the Accountable Care Organization model and Behavioral Health and Long-Term Services and Supports Community Partners programs, increasing expectations while making improvements based on lessons learned. The Waiver also supports the implementation of the Roadmap for Behavioral Health Reform and invests \$43 million over five years in loan repayment and residency training to strengthen and diversify the primary care and behavioral health workforce serving MassHealth members.”

Robert Cabral announces candidacy for Ward 3 New Bedford City Councilor

“My name is Robert Cabral, I have signed my nominations papers and am officially a candidate for City Councilor Ward 3. I will appear on the ballot on January 24th, 2023.

This is my first attempt at a public office, and I am so excited to have this opportunity to potentially represent the constituents of Ward 3. My 40-year background as an entrepreneur, manager, and leader makes me the dynamic choice to take charge of all the very important projects that will be happening over the next few years in our Ward.

I have a bachelor's degree in Business Management from the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. I was commissioned as an officer in the Massachusetts Army National Guard at 19-

years old – 8 months after being given an opportunity to enter Officer Candidate School, earlier than is normally required.

This impacted me greatly, helping me to become a good leader – one who values subordinate input while analyzing information to make informed decisions. I started and owned ‘Ash Away Hearth and Chimney,” a multi-store retailer that also was involved in construction services for over 30 years before handing it over to my son Kevin.

In the past year, I have worked with homelessness in New Bedford and used my background to come up with a robust 25-page plan to address homelessness in our city. I look forward to getting a serious and raw discussion going on homelessness and its relation to substance use disorder and especially the public mental health crisis we currently face.

The following is my platform for running for this position of public trust. I will encourage all Ward 3 residents to call me to discuss any issues they have both while as a candidate, and if I am lucky enough to win, as your Councilor.

I do not plan on being an absentee Councilman. I will put in the time required and more. Should the residents of Ward 3 see it fit, I will immediately immerse myself into the office, and hit the ground running.

1) My number one priority will be **customer (constituent’s) service**. After 40 years of doing what is right for the customer and putting them first, I will easily be able to handle constituent needs in a timely and professional manner. My phone, 508-441-1248. is always on. I will respond to your inquiries.

2) **Transparency**: My very first motion will be to live-stream all City Council meetings. In a post COVID world, there is no excuse for this to not be happening now. A large group of people no longer have cable access. The constituents will know how I voted and why I voted the way I did. All major votes

will be posted in a manner to be determined.

I will establish an advisory committee made up of people from all parts of the ward, to keep my pulse on constituent desires. I will attempt to grow involvement in Ward 3 Community Groups, to communicate as much as possible with the group.

3) Provide strong, active **leadership and organizational skills** required to help successfully implement the major projects coming to the ward, i.e. Hicks-Logan project, the Advanced Manufacturing Campus at the Golf course, the Rail Station, and many more. My experience will allow me to look for missed opportunities, as well as overcoming obstacles as they occur.

Hicks-Logan redevelopment was designed in 2008 yet remains stalled. I will work aggressively to get that project funded. It is an “untapped” jewel, that if done correctly, could solidify New Bedford as a destination city.

4) Strive to **achieve consensus** amongst the council members. A divided council does not do the will of the people effectively. The best deals are those in which neither side is content. There must be vigorous, respectful debate, and compromise. Every effort must be made to work with whoever is Mayor in the same manner, to maximize constituent benefit.

5) Work to **clean up the Weld Square area** and fix up some of the roads around there. Contact the new sheriff to see if we can reinstitute the “Inmate Community Service Volunteer Program” to clean up our streets. I will look into a community service program for the long term.

6) **Support all City of New Bedford employees.** We cannot succeed without our teachers, police, fire, EMS, DPI, and other city workers. Without good quality people, no entity can be effective. They are critical in providing the valuable services our citizens deserve. I do not support protecting people who do not effectively serve the people. We are all

accountable, myself included.

7) Use my financial experience to **look for both wasteful spending and budgetary shortfalls** that need to be addressed. Ensure there is integrity in the process, and that the needs of the people influence my decisions.

8) Immerse myself in our **school system**, to the extent possible. I have heard strong opinions from the parents of our children in Ward 3 pertaining to our effectiveness in educating our children. We must all strive to support our students and our teachers. Parents need to actively participate to influence their children's education.

9) Commission a **traffic study** to determine the feasibility of implementing a traffic light at the corner of Hathaway Rd and Rockdale Ave, as well as the cost of an additional 5 to 10 crosswalks in the ward.

10) Work to sell, demolish, or repurpose all the **abandoned properties** within ward 3 that are owned by the city. Work with the building and health departments as required, to ensure that absentee landlords maintain their buildings so our citizens can safely inhabit them.

11) Ensure diversity so that the people that make up our beautiful community are represented equally and all have a voice.

12) Work with businesses to bring more jobs to the city, provide tax relief to homeowners, and work to increase assessed values of Commercial Properties, instead of just increasing taxes. This will increase the tax base while allowing businesses more access to much needed capital through credit institutions.

13) Work to provide 24-hour shelters with wraparound services provided by our nonprofits. This will increase the speed in getting clients the help they need faster. I have a working

plan that I would provide to anyone interested. We need to get into a serious and raw discussion about homelessness, substance use disorder and our public mental health crisis. My past year working with the homeless will provide the much-needed insight to stimulate conversation.

If given the opportunity to represent Ward 3, I will do so in a professional manner and with integrity. My decisions will be based on my desire to do what is right for the Customer; our citizens.

Thank you for your consideration on January 24th. Please get out and vote. Your vote most certainly matters.

Robert Cabral.”

Robert Cabral

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Facebook: facebook.com/profile.php?id=100087404783696

Massachusetts officials remind residents about importance of flu and COVID-19 vaccinations

“With flu season underway, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) is reminding residents of all ages to get vaccinated. Flu activity across the country is higher than usual so far this year. Residents can get both a flu shot and a COVID-19 booster in the same visit.

“This flu season, residents can protect themselves and their families by getting a flu vaccine even if they haven’t gotten a vaccine in years past,” said Public Health Commissioner Margret Cooke. “It’s easy to get your flu shot along with your COVID-19 booster if you’re eligible for one, and both vaccines are widely available.”

The flu can lead to serious illness, hospitalization, or death. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that there have already been 13 million cases, 120,000 hospitalizations, and 7,300 deaths due to flu this season. The most common symptoms of flu are fever, cough, and sore throat. Symptoms can also include body aches, headaches, chills, runny nose, and fatigue.

Flu vaccination is especially important for people who are at higher risk of severe disease which could result in hospitalization or death. People at higher risk include those who are over age 65 or under 2 years, and anyone with a chronic respiratory condition, heart disease, a weakened immune system, or who is pregnant. Antiviral medications, such as Tamiflu, are available with a prescription to help reduce disease severity.

“Everyone over the age of 6 months is eligible for both the flu and COVID vaccines and can receive both vaccines at the same time. Spending time around more people increases the chances you will be exposed to one or more viruses,” said Dr. Larry Madoff, Medical Director of DPH’s Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences. “The current flu vaccine is a good match to the circulating strains and gives you the antibodies you need to help fight off infection.”

COVID and flu vaccines are both widely available for everyone 6 months and older. Other actions that people can take to help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses like the flu and COVID-19 include staying home when sick, keeping children home from daycare or school if sick, covering coughs and sneezes,

and practicing good handwashing hygiene.

Find a flu and/or COVID-19 vaccine site near you. Information about influenza and COVID-19 is available by visiting mass.gov/influenza or mass.gov/covid19, calling your health care provider, local board of health, or DPH at (617) 983-6800." -Mass.gov.

Massachusetts State Police carry out wreath-laying ceremonies for veterans in all 50 states

"Each December Wreaths Across America's mission to Remember, Honor, and Teach is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Veterans Cemeteries across all 50 states.

This load being escorted by Sergeant Fahey and Trooper Resendes, of the Troop D Community Action Team, is on its way to the Bourne National Cemetery, direct from Harrington, Maine, with the generous donation of time and equipment of the Daley & Wanzer Movers & Storage Company.

Along the way they met with Sergeant Hatchell and Trooper Tillotson, of the Norwell Barracks, and stopped at the Trooper Mark S. Charbonnier Memorial on Route 3 in Kington to lay a wreath."-Massachusetts State Police.



Massachusetts State Police photo.



Massachusetts State Police photo.



Massachusetts State Police photo.

Gov. Baker signs executive order to establish Massachusetts Cyber Incident Response Team

“Team will advise on policies and strategies to manage the risk of cyber threats and will lead the Commonwealth’s response to cyber incidents.”

Today, Governor Charlie Baker signed an executive order to establish the Massachusetts Cyber Incident Response Team (MA-CIRT). Led by the Secretary of the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security (EOTSS), MA-CIRT is established with the mission of enhancing the Commonwealth’s ability to prepare for, respond to, mitigate against, and

recover from significant cybersecurity threats. The Governor signed the executive order as Massachusetts and other jurisdictions confront an overall increase in cybersecurity threats to websites and networks.

“State governments and other organizations across the country are increasingly being targeted by bad actors aiming to disrupt operations and compromise information systems,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “This executive order will further strengthen the Commonwealth’s policies, procedures, and resources required to prevent potential threats and appropriately respond to attacks on government infrastructure and services. As state governments expand their digital footprints, moving more services online and allowing for a more connected workforce, it’s critical that we make the necessary investments to protect this critical technology infrastructure from acts of terrorism and criminal, organized crime, and gang activity.”

“Cybersecurity attacks threaten Commonwealth technology networks and the continuity of essential government services we provide to the constituents we serve,” said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. “With the establishment of MA-CIRT, the Baker-Polito Administration continues to invest and prioritize the delivery of effective and reliable government services to the people of the Commonwealth.”

“With my background in public safety, I know the importance that leadership buy-in plays in swift, organized, and effective response to an external threat,” said Secretary of Technology Services and Security Curt Wood. “The Baker-Polito Administration is once again leading from the front on government cybersecurity and I thank Governor Baker, Lt. Governor Polito, and my fellow leaders in cybersecurity and public safety for their partnership on the issuance of this critical executive order that will serve the Commonwealth for years to come.”

Under the direction of the EOTSS Secretary, the formation of MA-CIRT convenes cybersecurity and public safety experts from across state government as required members, including leadership representatives from:

- The Executive Office of Technology Services and Security
- The Commonwealth Security Operations Center
- The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
- The Commonwealth Fusion Center
- The Massachusetts State Police Cyber Crime Unit
- The Massachusetts National Guard
- The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

The Executive Order reinforces Massachusetts as a leader in cybersecurity enhancement efforts through a variety of strategies. To prevent against attacks and increase the Commonwealth's cybersecurity resiliency, the Order underscores the need for preparing for and marshalling a coordinated response, mitigation, and recovery effort from significant cybersecurity threats or incidents. Additionally, the Order:

- Requires MA-CIRT to review cybersecurity threat information and vulnerabilities to make informed recommendations and establish appropriate policies to manage the risk of cyber incidents for executive department agencies and all other state agencies served by EOTSS.
- Requires MA-CIRT to develop and maintain an up-to-date Cyber Incident Response Plan, which will guide the actions of the Commonwealth's key public safety and information security and technology teams, state agency resources, and security professionals in responding to and minimizing the impact of significant cybersecurity threats to Commonwealth systems. The Plan is required to be submitted annually to the Governor for review and approval.
- Empowers the EOTSS Secretary to serve as MA-CIRT lead, with the approval of the Governor, to direct MA-CIRT in response to a significant cyber incident.
- Requires the routine exchange of information related to

cybersecurity threats and reported incidents between the Commonwealth Fusion Center and the Commonwealth Security Operations Center.

- Requires EOTSS and MA-CIRT to consult with the Massachusetts Cyber Center and assist the Center with efforts to foster cybersecurity resiliency through communications, collaboration, and outreach to state agencies, municipalities, educational institutions, and industry partners.
- Requires executive department agencies to comply with protocols and procedures established by MA-CIRT and all related policies, standards, and Administrative Directives issued by EOTSS.
- Requires Commonwealth executive department agencies and other state agencies served by EOTSS to identify and report significant cybersecurity incidents and coordinate efforts to mitigate and prevent further damage from cyber incidents.
- Requires all executive department personnel to annually complete the EOTSS approved security awareness training program administered by the Human Resources Division.
- And strongly encourages other governmental entities throughout the Commonwealth not served by EOTSS to report cybersecurity threats or incidents to the Commonwealth Security Operations Center.

In 2021, Congress recognized the increased cyber threat posed to state and local governments by establishing a \$1 billion State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program as a part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The four-year grant program requires 80% of funds go toward assisting municipalities in enhancing their cybersecurity posture. This new federal program compliments the various support for municipal cybersecurity efforts offered by the Baker-Polito Administration, including: the Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program, Free Cybersecurity Health Check Program, and the Community Compact IT Grant Program, which was established by Governor Baker's Executive Order 554 in 2015.

EOTSS was established in 2017 as the Commonwealth's lead technology and cybersecurity agency via Article 87 government restructuring legislation filed by Governor Baker and approved by the Legislature. Its mission is to lead initiatives to modernize the Commonwealth's IT infrastructure assets, continually strengthen government cybersecurity operations and standards via the consolidation of infrastructure and cybersecurity operations for the Commonwealth into a centrally managed state agency and leverage innovative technology solutions to offer user-friendly digital services to its constituents."-Mass.gov.