

New Bedford Fire Department promotes Scott Gomes to rank of District Fire Chief

“The New Bedford Fire Department extends its Congratulations to Scott Gomes who was promoted to the rank of District Fire Chief at the City Council meeting held on Thursday, October 13, 2022.

District Chief Gomes was hired as a Firefighter in 2001, was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in 2006, and to the rank of Captain in 2011. District Chief Gomes is also an electrical engineer and certified Fire Instructor. He routinely teaches at our firefighter recruit academies, instructing the classes on building construction and collapse.

As the Captain and Head of Training in 2011, he conducted department-wide training regarding firefighter MAYDAY situations and fireground accountability. He also frequently contributes to the development of the department’s standard operating procedures. On October 3, 2022, he assisted in and was the Incident Commander at the 108 Tremont Street structure fire where three residents were rescued.

District Chief Gomes is currently assigned to Command Unit 2. Best of luck District Chief Gomes!” -New Bedford Fire Department.



New Bedford Fire Department photo.

**Bristol County Sheriff Tom
Hodgson named “Person of the**

Year”

“Today Bristol County Sheriff Tom Hodgson announced that he has been named “Person of the Year by the Prince Henry Society of Massachusetts–New Bedford Chapter. Hodgson was recognized for his outstanding leadership and service to Bristol County for providing resources and promoting public safety.

The award was presented to Hodgson by the Honorable Phillip Raposa at the Century House.

Here are the comments by Judge Raposa on presenting the award:

“Tom has a steady moral compass that always points true north and his personal values, which inform the man that he is, are deeply held. He is also a man of faith, but not one that he wears on his sleeve. Tom is a straight talker and is true to his word. And he subscribes to the creed that much is expected from those to whom much has been given.



Person of the Year Award

Presented by

Prince Henry Society of Massachusetts
New Bedford Chapter

To

Thomas M. Hodgson

In recognition for outstanding leadership & service to
the community of Bristol County by providing resources
and promoting public safety.

October 15, 2022

BCSO photo.

Tom has experienced good fortune in his professional life and has had the opportunity to rub shoulders with the high and mighty all the way up to the White House. But even as you might see him on television standing in the Rose Garden, he stands there knowing where he came from, and I don't just mean New Bedford. I mean as the son of an English immigrant father, as a father himself as well as a grandfather, as a husband, and as someone who an untold number of people have come to

trust and to rely upon. And knowing all that, he has always kept himself in perspective.

There is another respect in which Tom demonstrates a healthy ability to keep himself in check, being his quick wit and sense of humor. Unlike many sitting judges, Tom can be genuinely funny. And while he is more than able to engage in joking banter with friends, what is most impressive is when he turns the table on himself and engages in self-deprecating humor. In doing so, he demonstrates that while he is self-aware, he is not self-absorbed. Laughing at other people is easy. The real test is being able to laugh at yourself, and Tom passes that test with ease.

Tom is not one to conceal his views, which he does not adjust or modify simply to please others in circumstances where a lesser man might find it convenient to do so. And even if you don't agree with what he says, you know that he never says anything that he doesn't truly believe... because while Tom thinks with his head, he speaks from the heart. For my part, I believe there is a certain integrity associated with those who, like Tom, are forthright and honest as to their views, even when their beliefs might not be your own.

Tom came from a family of thirteen children, a fact that taught him the importance of knowing when to compromise but also when to stand his ground. As a result, he is not shy about saying what he thinks, and he is more than willing to take on those who disagree with him. In doing so, however, he is never one to raise his voice, but he is always someone who can be heard. Yet regardless of the vigor with which he advocates his views, he remains a gentleman who will oppose an adversary's position, but without attacking the person who holds it. And even when he does criticize the views or actions of another, I have never known him to convert a dispute over public policy into a personal matter.

In addition to all these things, which define Tom's character,

he is also committed to the larger community of which he is a part. In that regard, we are all familiar with his efforts on behalf of others in our area, including seniors, our youth and those facing physical and other personal challenges, to name but a few. Considering, however, that he is being recognized this evening by the Prince Henry Society, it is also appropriate to highlight Tom's close ties to the Portuguese community, ties no doubt strengthened by his own experience as the son of an immigrant. Although his father hailed from an island, it wasn't one flying the Portuguese flag. And while his dad embarked in neither Ponta Delgada nor Funchal, he started his journey with the same aspirations as our own families: to breathe free and to enjoy opportunities beyond their reach in the land of their birth.

That said, despite the common elements between the paths of his family and ours, Tom long ago had to face up to the sad fact that he is not of Portuguese descent. So, he did the next best thing: he married someone who is, his wife Joanne who is his strong right arm in all things. She is his alter ego, and a thoroughly Portuguese one at that. So, it should come as no surprise to know that Tom and Joanne have a house on the island of Pico, in the Azores. And if loving Portuguese food is any indicator of where his heart is, Tom probably satisfied the requirements for dual citizenship long ago. His ability to dispatch a plate of polvo is truly impressive.

But Tom's association with the Portuguese community goes beyond whatever plate of food is in front of him. Over time he has consistently demonstrated his support for our ethnic community that reflects a genuine appreciation for who we are and what we mean to this area. As the members of the Prince Henry Society well know, he has always been ready to support events of importance to us, whether it be Day of Portugal celebrations, the Feast of the Holy Ghost in Fall River, or the Feast of the Blessed Sacrament here in New Bedford.

Tom also recognizes that the Portuguese community in this area

is closely linked to our ethnic counterparts across the sea, or the Atlantic River, as it has been called by some. He has thus provided support and security for the many Portuguese officials, dignitaries, performers and artisans who have come to join us here in Bristol County. Similarly, he has supported various initiatives between the United States and Portugal such as the UMass Dartmouth nursing exchange program. In that same vein, he has also hosted Portuguese judges, prosecutors and private attorneys who visited Southeastern Massachusetts at the invitation of the Commission for Justice Across the Atlantic.

Equally significant have been his efforts to assist members of the Portuguese community in this area who have been required to return to their native land. Indeed, many such individuals came to this country as young children but never obtained American citizenship. Later in life, they ran afoul of the law, and were subject to deportation. Collaborating with President Carlos Caesar and the regional authorities in the Azores, Tom worked hard to assist Portuguese deportees in the difficult transition that they faced, leaving behind their families in the United States and returning to a country many of them did not know and whose language many of them did not speak. Tom was mindful of the many challenges before them as they struggled to integrate into Azorean society. Indeed, he worked with members of Congress and others in this effort, including Barney Frank. Tom and Barney didn't agree on much else, and they were something of a political odd couple, but helping the Portuguese community was a value that they shared.

Tom's efforts on behalf of the Portuguese both here and abroad have not gone unnoticed and he has been recognized by those who know best the work he has done. In addition to his strong working relationship and close friendship with Carlos Caesar, he was made an honorary citizen of the municipalities of both Vila Franca do Campo and Lagoa on the island of São Miguel. Perhaps even more significantly, Tom has also been recognized

by the President of Portugal, who awarded him the rank of Comendador in the Order of Prince Henry the Navigator for his service to the Portuguese nation.

As a result of your recognition of Tom here this evening, he has come full circle. Being recognized by the President of Portugal with the Order of Prince Henry the Navigator and now being named Person of the Year by the Prince Henry Society, it can be said that his association with Prince Henry, that great Portuguese visionary, is now complete.

In closing, I want to thank the Prince Henry Society for recognizing Tom Hodgson this evening. In doing so, you acknowledge his demonstrated appreciation for the Portuguese community, but also for being the genuinely good man and the honorable person that he is. I can assure you that while his station in life has changed greatly since I first met him, he is the same man who walked into my office almost 35 years ago and who I quickly came to admire and who I continue to admire to this day. That said, congratulations Tom on this well-deserved honor. Well done, as always."

"I am so humbled by this honor. Working to keep the people of Bristol County safe has always been just the right thing to do. I am honored to have received this prestigious recognition," said Hodgson.

Hodgson has been gaining winning momentum with so many impressive endorsements and now this special honor. So far, Hodgson has received the endorsement of the Massachusetts State Police, the Massachusetts Correctional Officers Federated Union, the National Correctional Employee Union 407 Bristol County, Rehoboth Police Supervisor's Union, Dighton Police Officers Local 306, Taunton Patrolmen Association, New Bedford Police Union, former Democrat Attorney General Frank Bellotti, and Governor Charlie Baker."

Representative Straus and Mayor Mitchell issue joint statement on New Bedford Airport funding

“Massachusetts State Representative Bill Straus and New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell have received a commitment for design and project funding for a new airport terminal and control tower for New Bedford from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

In June of this year, the two local officials hosted a visit to the airport by Secretary Tesler for the Secretary to be briefed by Airport Commission members and staff on the project background and design options for a new airport terminal. The current administration and passenger facility was built in the 1950s and is in need of replacement and infrastructure updates. The current terminal building is the oldest commercial airport terminal in New England still in active use.

Specifically, Straus and Mitchell are confirming, “MassDOT is funding and authorizing the City/Airport Commission to proceed with full design and engineering of the Airport Terminal Building. As part of this overall engineering effort, a critical and early component of this process will be to update the Airport Layout Plan (ALP). An updated ALP is an essential ingredient for eligibility for Federal and State funds and can be completed in advance of the completion of the full design. Additionally, within the next update to the Capital Improvement Plan, MassDOT will incorporate this project.”

The commitment from the state means the city's airport commission can begin immediate design and permitting to bring the replacement facility to a bid-ready level of completion while funding for the project's completion will be a part of the state's five year Capital Improvement Plan. As a result of this funding authorization by the state, completed designs and permits can be expected by mid-2023.

Mayor Mitchell and Representative Straus, House Chair of the Legislature's Joint Transportation Committee, have continued to have conversations in recent months with Secretary Tesler to review the project's status, which led to today's announcement.

"I want to thank the Mayor and the Commission for their aggressive pursuit of this needed project which meets an important need in the region's transportation growth over the next several years," said Representative Straus. "This state commitment, however, would not have been possible without the strong interest in the South Coast by Governor Baker and Lieutenant Governor Polito", he added.

"I want to thank Chairman Straus for teaming up with my administration, along with Chairman Carlos DaCunha and the other members of the Airport Commission, to advance this long-needed project, which will bolster the airport's ability to expand commercial air service offerings," said Mayor Mitchell. "It represents another key investment by the Baker-Polito Administration to support Greater New Bedford's long-term economic competitiveness."

Secretary Tesler added MassDOT is pleased to advance projects at New Bedford Regional Airport, "Municipal airports are a tremendous boost to the economic vitality of a region and investments in New Bedford and updating the Airport Layout Plan will have positive benefits for residents and the business community for many decades.""

New Bedford's new airport terminal gets "green light"

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The Massachusetts Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division is tasked by statute with building, maintaining, and advancing an efficient Massachusetts aviation system to drive

economic development and improve the quality of life in the Commonwealth. MassDOT Aeronautics is the lead agency responsible for planning aviation capital investment for the Commonwealth's 35 public use airports, as well as a variety of private use landing areas, seaplane bases, and heliports."

New Bedford Fire Department recruits well into week 6 of fire training

"The Recruit Class 02-2022 is well into Week 6 of their Fire Training!

Live fire training is a critical part of the instruction and certification process for firefighters. It teaches them how to safely and effectively fight fires in a controlled setting under supervision.

Vehicle extrication and stabilization training is also underway. A special Thank You to Lech Garage & Autobody!!"-New Bedford Fire Department.

All photos by the New Bedford Fire Department:



\$17.5 Million awarded to support ‘Project Safe’ neighborhoods including New Bedford

“United States Attorney Rachael S. Rollins announced today that the Department of Justice has awarded \$306,279 to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) to administer Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) grant funds in the District of Massachusetts.

The grant funding awarded to EOPSS will support community

efforts to address the epidemic of gun crime and serious violence in Massachusetts and is one of a number of awards being made to state and local agencies across the country. Funds are administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), part of the Department's Office of Justice Programs (OJP). PSN funds in Massachusetts are administered by the Office of Grants and Research (OGR), a state agency within EOPSS. Since the program began in 2001, over \$7 million in federal grant funds have been allocated to the District of Massachusetts's violent crime reduction efforts.

Launched two decades ago as an evidence-based and community-oriented response to serious gun crime, PSN is a key component of the Department's Comprehensive Strategy for Reducing Violent Crime. While the initiative was first launched in 2001, the Department strengthened the program in May 2021, as outlined by Deputy Attorney General Monaco. The PSN approach is guided by four key principles: fostering trust and legitimacy in our communities; supporting community-based organizations that help prevent violence from occurring in the first place; setting focused and strategic enforcement priorities; and measuring the results of our efforts. The fundamental goal is to reduce violent crime, not simply to increase the number of arrests or prosecutions.

"As U.S. Attorney, my number one priority is making our communities safer. Our mission is not simply to prosecute crime, we must prevent it – which is exactly why my office continues to prioritize violent crime reduction efforts through the PSN initiative," said United States Attorney Rachael S. Rollins. "Under my administration, the District of Massachusetts has added two additional target cities (Holyoke and Lowell) to our PSN initiative (Boston, Brockton, Lawrence, New Bedford, Springfield and Worcester), giving them access to critical federal funding and invaluable resources to reduce violence crime in their neighborhoods. This includes providing funding for the purchase of gunshot detection technology in

Holyoke, Lawrence and Lowell. As we have seen recently with the tragic double shooting resulting in the murder of a 14-year-old child in Boston, and the murder suicide in Kingston, this work of reducing gun violence is vitally important. My office remains committed to doing the hard work of mending and fostering community relationships and investing in community-based initiatives in our fight against violent crime in our Commonwealth.”

“Project Safe Neighborhoods has a long tradition and proven track record of fostering strong collaborations between federal, state and local partners to improve how we serve communities impacted by violence. These grants allow our Office of Grants and Research to direct resources in a way that drives impactful change for communities across the Commonwealth” said Public Safety and Security Secretary Terrence Reidy. “I am grateful for the leadership of US Attorney Rachael Rollins and her office as we continue to collaborate on efforts to reduce and prevent violence.”

“Reducing violence and sustaining those reductions will require strong partnerships between criminal justice agencies and community stakeholders and a shared commitment to the safety and well-being of every community member,” said OJP Deputy Assistant Attorney General Maureen Henneberg. “The investments we are making through Project Safe Neighborhoods will enable every stakeholder to play a part in building safer and healthier communities.”

“Over its two-decade history, Project Safe Neighborhoods has evolved to meet the complex challenges of community violence by enlisting the insights and expertise of local partners and by relying on the latest evidence,” said BJA Director Karhlton F. Moore. “We are proud to support our U.S. Attorneys and their allies in their critical work to curb violent crime and build the mutual trust necessary to ensure lasting success.”

PSN programs are led by U.S. Attorneys’ Offices in

collaboration with local public safety agencies and community organizations. The programs' emphasis on community engagement, prevention and intervention measures, focused and strategic enforcement and measurement and accountability has helped achieve overall reductions in violent crime, including gun homicides, in neighborhoods where PSN strategies have been implemented. The District of Massachusetts established an extensive network of law enforcement and community partners who have been fundamental to this strategy's success in eight target cities: Boston, Brockton, Holyoke, Lawrence, Lowell, New Bedford, Springfield and Worcester.

The distribution of grant funds to target cities across the state has enabled communities and organizations to implement programming focused on after-school activities, education, employment, re-entry for returning citizens, law enforcement/community collaboration, and public service outreach projects, among others.

In Massachusetts, PSN projects include:

- Developing and sustaining community/law enforcement partnerships and strengthening their capabilities in targeted communities across the state by maximizing federal resources;
- Collaborating with state and local law enforcement on violent crime and illegal firearm prosecutions;
- Providing training for nearly 4,500 law enforcement personnel and community members on topics such as advancements in technology, empowering neighborhoods on addressing gang prevention; updates on new innovative community programs and partnerships; and officer safety training;
- Supporting community partners and outreach programs to address reentry barriers for returning citizens and empower youth to resist gang recruitment; and
- Formulating tools to measure the performance of projects funded with PSN and other federal grants.
- The awards announced above are being made as part of the regular end-of-fiscal year cycle. More information about

awards under PSN and other OJP grants can be found on the OJP Grant Awards Page.

The Office of Justice Programs provides federal leadership, grants, training, technical assistance and other resources to improve the nation's capacity to prevent and reduce crime, advance racial equity in the administration of justice, assist victims and enhance the rule of law. More information about OJP and its components can be found at www.ojp.gov." - Massachusetts Department of Justice.

U.S. Rep. Keating tours New Bedford's St. Luke's Trauma Center after securing federal funds

"U.S. Rep. William "Bill" Keating, D-Bourne, visited St. Luke's Hospital on Thursday to tour Southcoast Health's Level II Trauma Center and preview an expansion made possible by \$975,000 in federal funds he secured for the not-for-profit community health system.

Keating's successful Community Funding Project request for the St. Luke's Level II Trauma Center was one of the 10 he is allotted in the 9th Congressional District, according to the House Appropriations Committee. The request was also supported by Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-MA, and Sen. Edward J. Markey, D-MA, as Congressionally Directed Spending.

"Here in historic New Bedford, on site at one of the busiest hospitals in the Commonwealth, I am honored to be among our

frontline healthcare workers who deserve all of the support we can offer them,” Keating said. “I’m seeing up close how this funding will help strengthen Southcoast Health’s new Trauma Center, which can treat the most serious of injuries and reduce the need for transport to Providence and Boston. It’s beyond impressive. The medical professionals and the advanced technology, accessible 24/7 right off of 195 at St. Luke’s, are literally life savers for our region.”

St. Luke’s was designated a Level II Trauma Center by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in October of 2021 after earning verification from the American College of Surgeons. It is the only such center in EMS Region V, serving southeastern Massachusetts, as well as in the 9th Congressional District.

Southcoast President & CEO Ray Kruger, MD, FACS, who joined Keating on his tour, said that the funds will be used to triple existing trauma space at St. Luke’s and add three state-of-the-art trauma beds and overhead operating lights, along with three computer monitoring stations.

“On behalf of Southcoast Health and the patients we serve, I offer my thanks to Congressman Keating, Senator Warren, Senator Markey, and all in our legislative delegation for their longstanding commitment to public health in southeastern Massachusetts,” Kruger said. “This is a great day for care, safety, and readiness in our region. These much-needed funds are being put to immediate use by the St. Luke’s trauma surgeons, nurses, providers, and staff, which will bring direct benefit to the people who call this part of the Commonwealth home.”

For more than 25 years, Southcoast Health has served communities across southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island as the largest provider of primary and specialty care in the region. The not-for-profit, charitable system includes three acute care hospitals – Charlton Memorial in Fall River, St. Luke's in New Bedford (a Level II Trauma Center), and Tobey in Wareham – as well as a network of over 700 physicians, hospitalists, and midlevel practitioners.

Southcoast Health has established seven Urgent Care Centers, two Cancer Centers, a Visiting Nurse Association, and numerous ambulatory facilities that ensure convenient access to services for 725,000 residents in 33 communities covering 900 square miles. In addition, the system partners with Acadia Healthcare to offer expanded resources at Southcoast Behavioral Health in Dartmouth.

Southcoast Health is a Newsweek's World's Best Hospital in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022. In 2021, St. Luke's was named to Newsweek and Leapfrog's Best Maternity Hospitals for the second consecutive year, while US News ranked Southcoast among the 10 best hospitals in Massachusetts, and 2nd among those in the Providence Metro area. For three straight years, Southcoast Health has earned Best Hospitals and Best Place to Work in SouthCoast Media Group's Best of the Best Awards, voted on by residents and readers.

With upward of 7,500 employees, Southcoast Health is the largest employer in southeastern Massachusetts, and one of the largest employers in the Commonwealth, according to the Boston Business Journal.

More information is available online at www.southcoast.org. Connect to Southcoast Health through social media on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Southcoast® is a registered trademark of Southcoast Health System.

Southcoast Hospitals Group, which includes Charlton Memorial

Hospital, St. Luke's Hospital and Tobey Hospital, is a 2020 Newsweek's World's Best Hospital."

New Bedford has roadwork sites for the upcoming week of October 17, 2022 – October 21, 2022,

"The City of New Bedford has roadwork sites for the upcoming week of October 17, 2022 – October 21, 2022, and they are as follows:

Eversource will be working on the street milling from gas main relays on:

- Phillips Rd between Greenbrier Ct and Briarwood Dr
- Phillips Rd at Monica's Way
- Belleville Ave from Holly St to Sawyer St
- Belleville Ave at Wood St

Other:

- Contractor (INDUS) will be working on Braley Road from Phillip Rd to Freetown town line. This work will include adjusting all structures within the roadway in preparation of final top course paving. Single lane traffic for paving operations.
- Contractor (PA Landers/ PJ Keating) will be paving the top wearing course on Braley Road from Phillips Rd to Freetown town line. Vehicular traffic will be restricted to single lane with detours. Residential access only.
- Contractor (KR Rezendes, Inc.) will continue roadway and

sidewalk work at MassDOT's Hathaway Triangle project located at the newly signalized intersection of Hathaway Rd x Nauset St.

- Contractor (PA Landers) will continue curb installation and sidewalk reconstruction along a portion of Phillips Rd from Holly Tree Ln to approximately 550' north of Birchwood Dr.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will continue sidewalk work on Pricilla Street and West Street in the vicinity of St. Luke's Hospital.
- Contractor 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 sidewalk reconstruction on Union St from Sixth St to County St.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be raising structures within the roadway on Cedar St (from Maxfield to Mill St) in preparation of final top course paving.
- Contractor (PA Landers) tentatively scheduled to line paint the newly resurfaced roadways of Mt. Pleasant St, Rockdale Ave, Acushnet Ave, Nash Rd and E. Rodney French Blvd.
- 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."

**New Bedford Police
Department's Special Officer**

“J.J.” demonstrates fighting spirit

“*POSITIVE NEWS ON SPECIAL OFFICER JJ!*****

The positive energy we've all been sending has been working wonders!

As you are aware, JJ received a new heart on August 4th and has been at Boston's Children's hospital enduring complications since then. He still has a way to go, but he's demonstrated how strong he is and we're confident he will be back in the city with us soon.

We are particularly proud of his friend and partner, Ofc. Shane Harris. Ofc. Harris has been with JJ and his family through thick and thin, never giving up hope during the darkest of hours.

Please keep JJ in your thoughts and keep the positive momentum going!” -City of New Bedford Police Department.



City of New Bedford Police Department photo.



City of New Bedford Police Department photo.

**City of New Bedford Police
Department to host “Ghoul’s
Night Out” trunk or treat**

event

“***GHOUL’S NIGHT OUT***

It’s that time of year again! Please spread the message far and wide. We will be having our “Trunk or Treat” at the south-end public safety building (rear parking lot) on October 28th at 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM!

Last year’s attendance was outstanding so we’re making it an annual tradition. ☺☺☺ If you would like to volunteer to set up and decorate your trunk, please contact: ScottCarola@newbedfordpd.com.”



TRUNK OR TREAT

Friday, October 28th, 4:30-6:00 PM

South-end Public Safety
Building
Rear Lot



City of New Bedford Police Department photo.