

# Former member of New Bedford Latin Kings chapter sentenced for racketeering conspiracy

"A former member of the New Bedford Chapter of the Massachusetts Almighty Latin King and Queen Nation (Latin Kings) was sentenced on May 17, 2022 on racketeering charges.

Taliyah Barboza, a/k/a "Queen Taliyah," 27, was sentenced by U.S. Senior District Court Judge Rya W. Zobel to time served (approximately six days in prison) and three years of supervised release. The government recommended a sentence of 15 months in prison. In November 2020, Barboza pleaded guilty to conspiracy to conduct enterprise affairs through a pattern of racketeering activity, more commonly referred to as RICO conspiracy.

The Latin Kings are a violent criminal enterprise comprised of thousands of members across the United States. The Latin Kings adhere to a national manifesto, employ an internal judiciary and use a sophisticated system of communication to maintain the hierarchy of the organization. As alleged in court documents, the gang uses drug distribution to generate revenue, and engages in violence against witnesses and rival gangs to further its influence and to protect its turf. Barboza drove gang members to a robbery and shooting in September 2019 and participated in the drug distribution activities of the gang.

In December 2019, a federal grand jury returned an indictment alleging racketeering conspiracy, drug conspiracy and firearms charges against 62 leaders, members and associates of the Latin Kings. Barboza is the 51st defendant to be sentenced in the case.

The United States Attorney's Office for the District of

Massachusetts; Joseph R. Bonavolonta, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Division; Commissioner Carol Mici of the Massachusetts Department of Correction; and New Bedford Police Chief Joseph C. Cordeiro made the announcement. Valuable assistance was also provided by the FBI North Shore Gang Task Force and the Bristol County and Suffolk County District Attorney's Offices. Assistant U.S. Attorney Philip A. Mallard of the Organized Crime & Gang Unit prosecuted the case.

This effort is part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) operation. OCDETF identifies, disrupts, and dismantles the highest-level criminal organizations that threaten the United States using a prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven, multi-agency approach. Additional information about the OCDETF Program can be found at <https://www.justice.gov/OCDETF>.

The details contained in the charging documents are allegations. The remaining defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law." -Massachusetts Department of Justice.

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## **Massachusetts Police Department dispatcher sentenced for child pornography offenses**

"A former dispatcher for the Lincoln Police Department was sentenced yesterday in federal court in Boston on charges of child pornography.

Spencer Hughes, 33, of Randolph, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Denise J. Casper to five years in prison and five years of supervised release. On Jan. 6, 2022, Hughes pleaded guilty to one count of receipt of child pornography and one count of possession of child pornography involving a prepubescent minor or a minor who had not attained 12 years of age.

A search of Hughes' residence in October 2020 resulted in the recovery of multiple electronic devices and external hard drives. An on-site preliminary forensic examination revealed multiple folders saved to the Hughes' external hard drive under what appeared to be female names. One folder contained approximately 19 digital files depicting child pornography, including images and videos. This folder included a prepubescent minor female who appeared to be younger than the age of 12 engaged in sexual conduct, among other things. Further analysis of the Hughes' electronic devices revealed more than 2,200 images and approximately 68 videos of child pornography. Prior to the search, Hughes was employed by the Town of Lincoln Police Department as a dispatcher.

United States Attorney Rachael S. Rollins and Matthew B. Millhollin, Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations in Boston, made the announcement. Assistant U.S. Attorney J. Mackenzie Duane of Rollins' Major Crimes Unit prosecuted the case.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse, launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by the U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the DOJ's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit <https://www.justice.gov/psc>." -Massachusetts Department of

Justice.

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# **New Bedford Police arrest Yarmouth man for trafficking over 150 grams of Fentanyl**

New Bedford police detectives have arrested a man for trafficking 156 grams of Fentanyl.

On Tuesday, May 17, at 7 p.m., detectives were in the area of Foster Street and Maxfield Street when they conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for a motor vehicle infraction. A short while later, the driver of the car and the passenger, identified as Paul Koller, 45, of Yarmouth, were asked to step out of the vehicle. During a pat frisk on Koller, detectives located three plastic bags of fentanyl weighing 54.3 grams.

Detectives also did an additional search of Koller's house and vehicle where they located 102 grams of Fentanyl.

Koller was arrested and charged with trafficking in 36 grams or more of Fentanyl, and trafficking in 100 grams or more of Fentanyl.

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**New Bedford Fentanyl**

# trafficker who continued to deal drugs while out on bail sentenced

A 26-year-old New Bedford fentanyl trafficker who while out on bail committed another fentanyl-related crime last year was sentenced recently to serve three-and-a-half to five years in state prison, Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced.

Andre Daniels pleaded guilty in Fall River Superior Court to indictments charging him with trafficking in fentanyl, distribution of fentanyl, possession with intent to distribute cocaine and unlawful possession of a firearm.

On March 11, 2021, New Bedford Police executed a search warrant at the defendant's home on Court Street. The defendant was the target of the warrant. Police recovered four bags of fentanyl, which were tested by the lab and weighed at a total of 69.79 grams; two bags of cocaine, which were tested by the lab and weighed at a total of 11.98 grams. Police also located a Smith and Wesson M&P Shield .45 caliber firearm, loaded with seven rounds of .45 caliber ammunition; packaging materials, digital scales, cutting agent, diaper bags, \$1,500 in cash and blenders with white powder residue.

The defendant was released on bail with GPS home confinement. While on release, the defendant, on April 23, 2021, sold a bag of fentanyl, weighing just over 10 grams, to an undercover Massachusetts State Police Trooper.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Gillian Kirsch and the state prison sentence was imposed by Judge Thomas Perrino.

"The defendant was in possession of a firearm to facilitate

his trafficking in fentanyl. While out on bail, he continued to sell drugs. This sentence is necessary to protect the public,” District Attorney Quinn said.

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## **New Bedford Police charge woman with multiple offenses including A&B on police officers**

“On May 13, at approximately 11:30pm, the New Bedford Police Department responded to the area of Acushnet Avenue for a report of a disturbance.

Upon arrival, they found the cause of the disturbance to be Jaelyn Gonsalves, 27, of Matthew Street and she was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, disturbing the peace, four counts of Assault and Battery on a police officer, threat to commit a crime, vandalizing property, and resisting arrest.” -New Bedford Police Department.

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## **Collaboration with DA's assistance dog “Chief,” leads**

# to New Bedford child rapist conviction

Thanks to a collaborative effort from police, prosecutors, Children's Advocacy Center staff and "Chief," the Bristol County District Attorney's new assistance dog, a 44-year-old New Bedford man was convicted of aggravated rape of a child and sentenced to serve 15 to 20 years in state prison, District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced.

Lawrence Trahan was convicted on May 6th of aggravated rape of a child, and indecent assault and battery on a person under the age of 14 after a three-day trial in Fall River Superior Court.

In December of 2017, the first report of a potential child rape involving this defendant was made to New Bedford police detectives. As a result of this information, the district attorney's office set up forensic interviews with the alleged victim at the Bristol County Children's Advocacy Center. During those interviews, the victim, a 10-year-old girl, told investigators this defendant touched her in "weird places like her arms legs boobies and butt." She said this happened more than 20 times. She specifically said the defendant put his tongue in her vagina and his penis in her buttocks. The defendant knew the victim in this case.

During trial preparation, the victim in the case was having difficulty talking any further about the sexual assaults and traumatic experiences she went through, and it was unclear whether she would even be able to testify at trial. At that time, Chief and his handler, Samantha Dias, who works for the district attorney's office as a forensic interviewer, met with the victim. During the victim's time with Chief, her extreme anxiety subsided and she began to feel more confident in her ability to testify about the sexual assaults.

Chief is the newest member of the Bristol County District Attorney's Office whose primary duties will be providing support to children during forensic interviews at the Children's Advocacy Center of Bristol County. Children and vulnerable adults participate in forensic interviews when there are allegations of any type of abuse (sexual abuse, physical abuse, commercial sexual exploitation, witness to violence). In forensic interviews, victims are asked to share details of their traumatic experience, and offering an assistance dog, when appropriate, can provide those being interviewed with a sense of comfort and safety.

Chief joins the District Attorney's Office from NEADS World Class Service Dogs, a nonprofit located in Princeton, MA. The presence of this steady, well-trained dog in the justice system can humanize stressful situations, have a calming effect, help build trust and assist prosecutors in gathering more information about a case which in turn leads to better prosecution efforts. They can also provide a sense of normalcy for vulnerable crime victims, including, children who have experienced a form of trauma and developmentally delayed adults.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Matthew Friedel, and the 15 to 20 year state prison sentence was imposed by Judge Renee Dupuis. Upon the defendant's eventual release from prison, he will immediately be placed on supervised probation for an additional five years.

The terms of his probation will include GPS monitoring, the completion sex offender treatment, prohibition from living in a household with a minor child, no unsupervised contact with children, no employment that puts him in contact with children and no volunteerism that includes contact with children. The defendant must also register as a sex offender.

"I am pleased the jury held the defendant accountable for sexually abusing this young child. Unfortunately he had access



to the child through his relationships with the victims' mother. Sadly, the victim's mother supported the defendant during the trial. I commend the victim for her courage in disclosing the abuse and perseverance during delays in the case," District Attorney Quinn said. "I would like to thank the entire investigatory and prosecution team, including our new support dog, Chief, for their efforts in this case. A substantial prison sentence was warranted."

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## Newborn puppies abandoned in Massachusetts, left in box on side of the road

"On Friday night, May 13, 2022, between 8:00pm-9:00pm, six newborn puppies were left in a box on the side of Cedar Street in Holliston, Massachusetts.

These puppies are now being cared for by animal control. The Holliston Police Department is seeking information related to these puppies, which are estimated to be less than one week old.

Any tips to assist in locating the person(s) responsible for abandoning these puppies will be greatly appreciated. **Tips can be kept confidential.** Contact the Holliston Police Department directly at 508-429-1212 or email Detective Ciara Maguire at [maguire@hollistonpolice.com](mailto:maguire@hollistonpolice.com) or contact the MSPCA at [lawenforcement@mspca.org](mailto:lawenforcement@mspca.org).

**Abandoning animals is illegal in Massachusetts. If you cannot care for a pet, contact any local shelter or the MSPCA.**

*\*\*\* Be advised that these puppies are NOT available for adoption at this time and we cannot respond to inquiries. \*\*\**  
Holliston Police Department.



*Holliston Police Department. photo.*



*Holliston Police Department. photo.*





*Holliston Police Department. photo.*

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## **Two defendants arrested, charged with shooting 36-year old New Bedford man to death**

Two men have been apprehended in connection with the April 29th homicide of 36-year-old Luis Miranda in New Bedford, Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced.

Jonathan Medina Perez, 41, was arrested early this morning at his home on Pleasant Street in Fall River. He is charged with Murder and Two Counts of Armed Assault with Intent to Murder.

Jonathan Goncalves, 33, of New Bedford was arrested on Saturday at his family's home on Washington Street in New Bedford, and charged with Accessory to Murder-Before the Fact and Accessory to Murder-After the Fact.

The arrests came as a result of an extensive investigation by Prosecutors from District Attorney Quinn's office, State Police Detectives assigned to District Attorney Quinn's office and New Bedford Police detectives.

Both defendants will be arraigned this morning in New Bedford District Court. The arraignments will be handled by Assistant District Attorney Shawn Guilderson, who coordinated the investigation into the homicide.

At 1:01 am on April 29, ShotSpotter alerted New Bedford Police to shots being fired in the area of 193 Weld Street. When first responders arrived on scene, they located a male gunshot victim as the lone occupant of a Chrysler Sebring. The victim, later identified as Miranda, was determined deceased on scene by New Bedford paramedics.

More information on the details of the investigation will be revealed during both defendants' arraignments today.

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## **Boston Police Department seek public's help in connection to recent double stabbing**

**"BPD Community Alert:** The Boston Police Department is seeking the public's help to identify the individuals shown in the image in relation to a double stabbing that occurred at about 2:19 AM on Wednesday, April 20, 2022, in the area of Stuart Street and Warrenton Street in Boston.

As a result of this incident, two victims were transported to a local area hospital for injuries which were determined to be

non-life threatening in nature.

Detectives assigned to District A-1 (Downtown) are actively reviewing the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident and are urging anyone with information relative to this investigation to contact 617) 343-4248.

Community members wishing to assist this investigation anonymously can do so by calling the CrimeStoppers Tip Line at 1 (800) 494-TIPS or by texting the word 'TIP' to CRIME (27463). The Boston Police Department will stringently guard and protect the identities of all those who wish to assist this investigation in an anonymous manner." -Boston Police Department.

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## **New Hampshire man arrested in connection to bomb threat at Massachusetts high school**

"On May 12th, 2022, members of the U.S. Marshall Fugitive Task Force along with the Massachusetts State Police Fugitive Task Force, acting on the information provided by Belmont Police Department detectives, arrested a 39-year old Ossipee, New Hampshire man in connection with the previous day's bomb threat at Belmont High School.

The suspect was arrested without incident at a Holiday Inn in Peabody, Massachusetts.

The Task Force officers were working off an arrest warrant that was obtained by Belmont detectives for the charge of making a false bomb threat (Ch.269 Section 14 M.G.L.)

Additional charges may be filed including Federal charges.”  
Belmont Police Department.