

Massachusetts State Police Troopers arrest three for trafficking Heroin, Fentanyl

At approximately 1 a.m. today a Trooper assigned to State Police-Shelburne Falls was on patrol on Route 91 in Bernardston when he observed a speeding Chevrolet Silverado pass his location. The Trooper entered traffic and caught up to the Silverado, clocking its speed at 88 miles per hour in a 65 mile per hour zone. He activated his cruiser's emergency lights signaling the truck to pull over.

Upon the truck coming to a full stop the Trooper approached it and identified three occupants inside. The operator, BENJAMIN KENDALL, 31, of Vershire, Vt., informed the Trooper he did not have identification on him and explained that the truck was a rental but that he was unaware of who rented it. It was discovered on scene that KENDALL did not have a driver's license and was placed under arrest. The Trooper observed numerous items consistent with the sale, use, and transport of narcotics then removed the other two occupants, identified as BROOKE ROWELL, 37, of Concord, Vt. and JESSE PEASE, 39, of West Fairlee, Vt., from the vehicle in order to conduct a search. Trooper Nathan Jackman and Officer Emily Rowell from the Greenfield Police Department responded to assist.

During the search Troopers located approximately 200 wax baggies containing a substance suspected to be heroin, approximately 10 grams of a substance suspected to be crystal methamphetamine, nine pills, and approximately two grams of a substance suspected to be cocaine. Trooper Greg Valentine then arrived at the scene with K-9 Kyber to search the vehicle. Kyber alerted to the dashboard area of the vehicle which was observed to have been tampered with after a closer inspection. Troopers searched this area and located 16 large bricks, each

containing 300 bags, of a substance suspected to be fentanyl along with additional packages of heroin. It was also discovered that PEASE had an active warrant for his arrest. ROWELL and PEASE were then placed under arrest and escorted to cruisers.

All three occupants were transported to the Shelburne Falls Barracks for booking. A bail commissioner was contacted and set bail at \$25,000 for PEASE and KENDALL, and \$20,000 for ROWELL. They were scheduled for arraignment at Greenfield District Court on the following offenses.

BENJAMIN KENDALL:

1. Trafficking in Heroin;
2. Possession of a Class A Substance;
3. Possession of a Class B Substance with Intent to Distribute;
4. Possession of a Class B Substance;
5. Possession of a Class E Substance;
6. Conspiracy to Violate Drug Law;
7. Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle;
8. Speeding; and
9. License Plate Violation.

BROOKE ROWELL:

1. Trafficking in Heroin;
2. Possession of a Class A Substance;
3. Possession of a Class B Substance with Intent to Distribute;
4. Possession of a Class B Substance, two counts;
5. Possession of a Class E Substance;
6. Conspiracy to Violate Drug Law; and
7. Tampering with Evidence.

JESSE PEASE:

1. Trafficking in Heroin;

2. Possession of a Class B Substance with Intent to Distribute;
3. Possession of a Class B Substance, two counts;
4. Conspiracy to Violate Drug Law; and
5. Tampering with Evidence.



Massachusetts State Police photo.

**Massachusetts State Police
arrest man trafficking**

Fentanyl after being stopped for speeding

At approximately 4:20 p.m. yesterday Trooper Cody Smith, assigned to State Police-Dartmouth, was stationary monitoring traffic on Route 24 southbound in Freetown.

At that time he observed a red Nissan Murano traveling approximately 80 miles per hour in a 65 mile per hour zone. He also observed the operator holding a cell phone in his hand to his head. Trooper Smith activated his cruiser's lights and siren and signaled the vehicle to stop. While the operator was pulling over Trooper Smith observed him reach toward the front passenger seat area.

Upon the Nissan coming to a full stop Trooper Smith approached it and identified the operator as TAYLOR STAVROU, 24, of Taunton, and informed him why he was stopped. After some conversation with STAVROU Trooper Smith observed a knife on his person. Fearing there may have been another weapon in the vehicle where STAVROU was reaching he was removed and pat-frisked. During the pat-frisk Trooper Smith felt a baseball-sized item on STAVOU's person. He was secured in the rear of a cruiser and questioned further.

After subsequent investigation the item was dropped from STAVOU's pant leg. Trooper Smith suspected the substance inside to be fentanyl and placed him under arrest. The total weight of the suspected fentanyl was more than 61 grams. After a search of the vehicle Trooper Smith located a large amount of cash, multiple cell phones, and illegally possessed Suboxone. Trooper Smith also discovered on scene that STAVOU's driver's license was revoked.

STAVOU was transported to State Police-Dartmouth for booking. He was eventually transported to the Ash Street Jail and

scheduled for arraignment at Fall River District Court on the following charges:

1. Trafficking in Fentanyl;
 2. Possession of a Class B Substance;
 3. Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Revoked Driver's License;
- and
4. Speeding.
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Former New Bedford Police Officer Sentenced for Child Pornography Offenses

A former New Bedford police officer was sentenced today in federal court in Boston for possessing and distributing child pornography.

Paul Hodson, 44, of Acushnet, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Patti B. Saris to six years in prison and five years of supervised release. In December 2019, Hodson pleaded guilty to one count of distribution of child pornography and one count of possession of child pornography.

Following an investigation into the use of peer-to-peer file sharing networks for the trade of child pornography, a search was executed at Hodson's home. Hodson was interviewed on scene and admitted to using peer-to-peer file sharing software to trade child pornography. Hundreds of child pornography files were recovered from Hodson's computer including at least one file that was distributed to undercover law enforcement in the course of the investigation.

United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling and William S. Walker, Acting Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations in Boston made the announcement today. Valuable assistance was provided by the Massachusetts State Police and the Acushnet Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorney Anne Paruti, Lelling's Project Safe Childhood Coordinator and Deputy Chief of the Major Crimes Unit, prosecuted the case.

The case is brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In 2006, the Department of Justice created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from exploitation and abuse. 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 www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

Couple from New Bedford indicted on pandemic benefit fraud, conspiracy to commit wire fraud

A married couple was indicted last week by a federal grand jury in Boston on fraud charges arising from their claims for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) funds.

Tiffany Pacheco, a/k/a Tiffany Tavery, 35, and Arthur Pacheco, 47, who, until recently, resided in New Bedford, Mass., were each indicted on one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

Tiffany Pacheco was also indicted on five counts of wire fraud and Arthur Pacheco on two counts. The defendants were arrested in San Antonio, Texas in December 2020 and have been detained since.

According to charging documents, Tiffany was hired by the Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) in April 2020, shortly after her release from federal prison following a conviction for aggravated identity theft. While employed by DUA, Tiffany allegedly misused her position to submit fraudulent PUA claim information on behalf of herself and her husband, Arthur, who was incarcerated in Texas until Sept. 4, 2020, and thus ineligible for PUA funds.

Specifically, it is alleged that in June 2020, PUA claims submitted for Tiffany and her husband reflected 2019 income of \$0 and no dependents. In July 2020, via her employment with DUA, Tiffany obtained access to the PUA computer system, and later changed claim information for herself and Arthur so as to increase the amount of PUA funds they would receive. For example, Tiffany allegedly increased the amount of 2019 income for her and Arthur to more than \$240,000, and increased the number of their dependents to seven. Tiffany further used her access to the PUA system to verify the increased reported 2019 income on both claims without the required income verification documents.

It is further alleged that the PUA claim for Arthur was fraudulent because he was incarcerated in Texas until Sept. 4, 2020, and thus ineligible for PUA funds. In November 2020, Arthur called DUA and falsely denied that he had been incarcerated during the timeframe leading up to September 2020, and that he was only incarcerated for approximately a month. Tiffany also spoke with DUA and misrepresented the period of time for which Arthur had been incarcerated.

A search of the New Bedford apartment where Tiffany and Arthur resided uncovered various tools of identity fraud, including

an ID laminator, 100 blank ID cards, 68 hologram overlays, 150 card lamination sheets and 649 sheets of blank checks. Law enforcement also seized approximately \$17,000 cash and a notebook that appeared to contain the personal identifying information of various individuals. On Sept. 23, 2020, DUA terminated Tiffany's employment.

The charges of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and wire fraud provide for a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, up to three years of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

The investigation was conducted by Homeland Security's Investigation's Document and Benefit Fraud Task Force (DBFTF), a specialized field investigative group comprised of personnel from various local, state, and federal agencies with expertise in detecting, deterring, and disrupting organizations and individuals involved in various types of document, identity, and benefit fraud schemes.

United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling; William S. Walker, Acting Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations in Boston; and Michael Mikulka, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, Labor Racketeering and Fraud Investigation made the announcement. The New Bedford Police Department, Massachusetts Parole Board and Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance, Program Integrity Unit provided valuable assistance with the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Bill Abely and Dustin Chao of Lelling's Criminal Division are prosecuting the case.

Four charged with trafficking fentanyl from 40 Roosevelt Street apartment

On January 15, New Bedford police officers seized approximately 101 grams of fentanyl, 25 bullets, and \$1,524 at 40 Roosevelt St. #2.

One juvenile along with 56-year old Janet Landrau of 40 Roosevelt St. #2, 24-year old Tanya Landrau of 40 Roosevelt St. #2, and 18-year old Vivian Almeyda of 75 Valentine St., were all charged with trafficking of fentanyl in excess of 100g. Detective Timothy Soares investigated the case.

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.

Massachusetts State Troopers arrest wanted man and woman trafficking cocaine after pursuit

At approximately 7 p.m. yesterday Trooper Anthony Lavigne, assigned to State Police Shelburne Falls, was patrolling Route 91 in Greenfield. At that time he observed a gray Kia sedan make numerous marked lanes violations while traveling above

the posted speed limit.

He activated his emergency lights and siren signaling the Kia to pull over, however, the vehicle accelerated and failed to stop for Trooper Lavigne. Shortly after the pursuit began Trooper Lavigne terminated. State Police dispatchers advised local police departments in the area of the situation and provided a description of the vehicle in the event they located it.

A short time after the pursuit was terminated members of the Bernardston Police Department contacted State Police dispatchers and advised they located the Kia, unoccupied, crashed into several trees. Multiple cruisers responded to the scene, in addition to K-9 assistance in order to locate the occupants. Approximately one hour later a male, identified as RAPHAEL CRUZ-CRESPO, 25, of New Britain, Conn., and female, IZABELLA MARTIN, 25, of New Britain, Conn., were located barefoot and were confirmed to have been the operator and passenger, respectively, of the Kia. It was discovered on scene that CRUZ-CRESPO had warrants for his arrest in Connecticut.

As the two occupants were located Troopers at the scene of the crash searched the vehicle and located a large bag containing approximately 33 grams of a substance suspected to be powder cocaine and another large bag containing approximately 47 grams of a substance suspected to be crack cocaine. CRUZ-CRESPO and MARTIN were both placed under arrest. They were transported to an area hospital for treatment to their injuries sustained in the crash, where they were also booked. A bail commissioner was contacted who ordered CRUZ-CRESPO to be held without bail and set bail at \$3,500 for MARTIN. They were scheduled for arraignment at Greenfield District Court on the following offenses.

CRUZ-CRESPO:

01. Fugitive from Justice;
02. Trafficking in Cocaine, two counts;
03. Conspiracy to Violate Drug Law;
04. Fail to Stop for Police;
05. Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle;
06. Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle;
07. Leaving the Scene of Property Damage Crash;
08. Marked Lanes Violation; and
09. Speeding.

MARTIN:

01. Trafficking in Cocaine, two counts; and
 02. Conspiracy to Violate Drug Law.
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New Bedford police arrest two for fentanyl trafficking after two raids on Thursday

On January 21, New Bedford police officers seized 115 grams of fentanyl and over \$2,000 during two separate raids.

Manuel Lema, 54, 10 Salisbury St #3S, was arrested and charged with trafficking in fentanyl after Detectives discovered 75 grams of fentanyl and \$1,814 at his residence. Detective Matthew Sylvia led this investigation.

Detectives also seized 40 grams of fentanyl and \$245 at 42 Capitol St #3. Quintin Costa, 24, 42 Capitol St. #3 was arrested and charged with trafficking in fentanyl. Detective Stephen Gwozdz investigated this case.

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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.

Wareham Police charge five for allegedly stealing work trailer with construction items on it

On Thursday, January 21, at about 6:00 a.m. an individual contacted the Wareham Police to report a construction trailer he owned was located by the Middleboro Police Department, in the middle of the road on Beach Street in Middleboro. The trailer had been stolen earlier from a job site on Charlotte Furnace Road in West Wareham. The individual reported that numerous construction items, valued at about \$17,000 had been stolen from the trailer.

An investigation was initiated by members of the Wareham Police Detective Division. At about 1:00 p.m. a detective went to an address in West Wareham after developing information as to where the stolen property might be located. After observing some of the stolen items on the property, the detective obtained a search warrant from the Wareham District Court.

At about 3:30 p.m. detectives, assisted by members of the patrol division executed the search warrant at 2296 Cranberry Highway. During the search, multiple stolen items were located including ladders, power tools, hand tools, staging equipment, and a compressor. Most of the items stolen from the trailer were recovered during the search.

Thus far, five individuals are facing charges; however, they will not be identified, as the case remains open and active with more criminal complaints possibly being brought forward.

In an unrelated case, on January 6, Middleboro and Wareham Police detectives recovered two Jet-Skis and a trailer that had been stolen in Middleboro, at the same location.

Wareham Police arrest New Bedford contractors hired to clean Lowe's Home Improvement

On Thursday, January 14, Wareham Police detectives were contacted by the Organized Retail Crime Investigation Unit of Lowe's regarding an ongoing larceny issue at their Wareham store.

The detectives began a joint investigation with the team from Lowe's. They conducted several days of investigation and determined that a man who was contracted to clean the store was stealing items and transporting them to New Bedford. The stolen items were being brought to 1407 Acushnet Avenue, and were being off-loaded into a business at that location.

On Thursday, January 21, Wareham Police detectives applied for and received three search warrants and two arrest warrants from the Wareham District Court. Shortly afterward with the assistance of the New Bedford Police and Massachusetts State Police, the warrants were served at 1407 and 1401 Acushnet Avenue. During the search, \$20,000 worth of stolen items were located. A truck had to be utilized to bring all of the items back to the Wareham store.

Oscar Ortiz (46) and Eric Ramos (34), both of New Bedford, were arrested on the warrants by detectives.

The investigation remains active and it is believed that nearly \$100,000 worth of goods were stolen from the store in the last several months.



Wareham Police Department photo.



Wareham Police Department photo.



Wareham Police Department photo.

Fairhaven Police Department charges 40-year old man with trafficking in Fentanyl

“On Tuesday, Jan. 5, JOSHUA CLARK, AGE 40, of FAIRHAVEN was charged with:

- Trafficking More Than 10 Grams of Fentanyl
- Possession of a Class E Substance

Following this week’s search, the charge against CLARK will now increase to Trafficking More Than 100 Grams of Fentanyl.

On Tuesday, Jan. 19, Fairhaven Police Detectives and members of the Bristol County Sheriff’s Office executed a search warrant at 5 Edgewater St. in Fairhaven. During the search, officers seized 122 grams of fentanyl and \$1,200 in cash.

Previously, on Tuesday, Jan. 5, investigators executed a search warrant at the same home and seized 36 grams of fentanyl and more than \$28,000 in cash. CLARK had been deemed dangerous, and has been held without bail since his arrest.

Between the two searches this month, a total of 158 grams of fentanyl and more than \$29,000 in cash were seized.

‘This week’s search and the one carried out earlier this month were examples of terrific, in-depth police work that led to a large quantity of drugs being taken off the streets of our community,’ Lt. Kobza said. ‘It shows what can happen when multiple agencies work together cooperatively with a common goal.’

These are allegations. All suspects are innocent until proven

guilty.”