

# **Massachusetts State Troopers arrest man for trafficking narcotics with illegally possessed firearm**

At approximately 9:30 p.m. yesterday two Troopers assigned to the Troop D Community Action Team were alerted by the Brockton Police Department of a shooting that took place in their city. The Troopers, patrolling in a single cruiser, responded to the area of the Westgate Mall in order to search for a vehicle matching the description of the one that fled the shooting.

Just before 10 p.m. they observed a similar vehicle, a gray Chevrolet SUV, and began to follow it. While doing so, they observed the vehicle travel over a curb and onto a sidewalk. The Troopers activated the cruiser's blue lights and initiated a motor vehicle stop on the Chevrolet in the area of retail stores at the Westgate Mall.

Once the vehicle was stopped the Troopers approached it and identified the operator as SHAHEN EDWARDS, 42, of New Bedford. EDWARDS provided a Massachusetts identification card and information of the vehicle, which was rented in a family members name. EDWARDS informed the Troopers he did not possess a valid driver's license. It was confirmed his license was revoked due to a prior offense of Operating a Motor Vehicle while Intoxicated. EDWARDS was removed from the vehicle and informed it was going to be towed.

Once EDWARDS was secured the Troopers began an inventory of the vehicles contents per State Police policy. They quickly observed indications that parts of the vehicle's interior had been removed and replaced, which is common when concealing narcotics while transporting them. While investigating one of

these areas they quickly located a plastic bag with nearly 30 grams of a substance believed to be Crack Cocaine.

After a subsequent search of the vehicle Troopers located a loaded 9mm pistol capable of holding 15 rounds of ammunition along with another bag containing nearly 100 grams of a substance believed to be Fentanyl. EDWARDS is currently on probation with multiple convictions of drug distribution, firearms possession, and driving with a revoked license. The serial number on the firearm was scratched off and destroyed, rendering it unable to be traced.

EDWARDS was placed under arrest and transported to State Police-Middleboro. A bail commissioner was contacted and set bail at \$50,040. EDWARDS is expected to be arraigned at Brockton District Court on the following offenses:

1. Operating a Motor Vehicle while Suspended for OUI;
2. Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Revoked License, Subsequent Offense;
3. Possession of a Firearm with Prior Violent/Drug Crime;
4. Possession of a Firearm with a Defaced Serial Number while in Commission of a Felony;
5. Possession of a Large Capacity Weapon;
6. Possession of Ammunition without FID Card;
7. Trafficking in Fentanyl;
8. Trafficking in Cocaine; and
9. Marked Lanes Violation.

---

# **Mattapoissett, New Bedford,**

# **and Massachusetts State Police arrest three Wareham men for armed robbery**

On the evening of September 1st at approx. 19:00 hrs Mattapoisett Police received a 911 call of an alleged Armed Robbery involving a firearm. The suspect vehicle was described as black Nissan Altima which had reportedly fled the area. Mattapoisett Police Sgt. King, Officer Parker and Officer Perez immediately responded to investigate. The Investigation obtained a suspect vehicle description and registration.

All area Police Departments were immediately notified of the vehicle by Mattapoisett Dispatch, Officer Borges. Shortly thereafter, New Bedford Police, Officer Turgeon observed the suspect vehicle traveling north on rt. 18. The vehicle continued east onto I195. A motor vehicle stop was conducted on I195 East in New Bedford by New Bedford Police and Mattapoisett Police Units. Three suspects were placed under arrest, taken into custody and transported to Mattapoisett Police Department.

- Spencer Ellenwood, 22 years old of 125 Minot Ave, Wareham
- Enrique Gomes, 28 years old of 12 State St., Apt 9E Wareham
- Saveion Brandon, 22 Years old of 27 Tyler Ave, Wareham

All three parties are charged with Armed Robbery while masked, Assault and Battery by means of a Dangerous Weapon and Breaking and Entering into a motor vehicle with the Intent to commit a felony.

The case is under investigation by Mattapoisett Police Detectives. Plymouth County Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Fairhaven Police also assisted.

---

# Three armed robbery suspects arrested by New Bedford and Mattapoisett police

On the evening of September 1st at approx. 19:00 hrs Mattapoisett Police received a 911 call of an alleged armed robbery involving a firearm. The suspect vehicle was described as black Nissan Altima which had reportedly fled the area. Mattapoisett Police Sgt. King, Officer Parker, and Officer Perez immediately responded to investigate. The Investigation obtained a suspect vehicle description and registration.

All area police departments were immediately notified of the vehicle by Mattapoisett dispatch, Officer Borges. Shortly thereafter, New Bedford Police Officer Turgeon observed the suspect vehicle traveling north on rt. 18. The vehicle continued east onto I195. A motor vehicle stop was conducted on I195 East in New Bedford by New Bedford Police and Mattapoisett Police Units. Three suspects were placed under arrest, taken into custody, and transported to Mattapoisett Police Department.

- Spencer Ellenwood, 22 years old of 125 Minot Ave, Wareham
- Enrique Gomes, 28 years old of 12 State St., Apt 9E Wareham
- Saveion Brandon, 22 Years old of 27 Tyler Ave, Wareham

All three parties are charged with Armed Robbery while masked, Assault and Battery by means of a Dangerous Weapon and Breaking and Entering into a motor vehicle with the Intent to commit a felony.

The case is under investigation by Mattapoisett Police Detectives. Plymouth County Bureau of Criminal Investigation

and Fairhaven Police also assisted.

---

## **Former Leader of New Bedford Latin Kings chapter pleads guilty to narcotics charges**

A former leader of the New Bedford Chapter of the Almighty Latin King and Queen Nation ("Latin Kings") pleaded guilty today to drug conspiracy charges.

Xavier Valentin-Soto, a/k/a "King X," 33, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute cocaine before U.S. Senior District Court Judge Rya W. Zobel, who scheduled sentencing for Dec. 16, 2020. Valentin-Soto was charged in December 2019, while serving a related sentence in state prison. Prior to his incarceration on the state charges, Valentin-Soto was the Cacique (or second-in-command) of the New Bedford Chapter of the Latin Kings.

During the plea proceedings, Valentin-Soto admitted that he conspired with other Latin Kings members and leaders to distribute cocaine and cocaine base in and around New Bedford. As Cacique, Valentin-Soto held a leadership role in the drug distribution conspiracy that the Latin Kings maintained in and around multiple trap houses throughout the north side of New Bedford.

Valentin-Soto was arrested in July 2017, when local police executed a search warrant at a Latin Kings trap house in north New Bedford and located cocaine and materials for the packaging and distribution of controlled substances. Valentin-Soto was charged in state court, but released after posting

bail. While on pretrial release for the state charges, Valentin-Soto sold a total of 160 grams of cocaine powder to a cooperating witness over the course of three recorded purchases in early 2019.

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.

Pursuant to the terms of the plea agreement, Valentin-Soto faces a sentence of 65 months in prison and three years of supervised release. The charge of conspiracy to distribute controlled substances provides for a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, a minimum of three years and up to life of supervised release and a fine of up to \$1 million. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

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. Xavier Valentin-Soto is the tenth defendant to plead guilty in the case.

United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling; Joseph R. Bonavolonta, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Field Division; Commissioner Carol Mici of the Massachusetts Department of Correction; and New Bedford Police Chief Joseph C. Cordeiro made the announcement today. 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 and Mark Grady of Lelling's Criminal Division are

prosecuting the case.

The operation was conducted by a multi-agency task force through the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF), a partnership between federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. The principal mission of the OCDETF program is to identify, disrupt and dismantle the most serious drug trafficking, weapons trafficking and money laundering organizations, and those primarily responsible for the nation's illegal drug supply. More information on the OCDETF program is available here: <https://www.justice.gov/ocdetf/about-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.

---

## **Nine Boston police officers arrested in overtime fraud scheme**

By Colin A. Young  
State House News Service

Nine current and former Boston police officers were arrested and charged by federal prosecutors Wednesday for allegedly engaging in a yearslong scheme to defraud the department of overtime pay.

U.S. Attorney Andrew Lelling announced the indictments on charges of conspiracy to commit theft concerning programs

receiving federal funds and embezzlement from an agency receiving federal funds. From May 2016 through February 2019, the defendants embezzled more than \$200,000 in overtime pay from BPD, Lelling's office alleged.

Arrested and indicted Wednesday morning were Lt. Timothy Torigian, 54, of Walpole; retired Sgt. Gerard O'Brien, 62, of Braintree; retired Sgt. Robert Twitchell, 58, of Norton; retired Officer Henry Doherty, 61, of Dorchester; retired Officer Diana Lopez, 58, of Milton; retired Officer James Carnes, 57, of Canton; Officer Michael Murphy, 60, of Hyde Park; retired Officer Ronald Nelson, 60, of Jamaica Plain; and Officer Kendra Conway, 49, of Boston. The defendants are expected to have initial appearances in federal court in Boston via videoconference Wednesday.

"I am a strong supporter of the police, especially in these difficult times. But all must be treated equally under the law, regardless of wealth, power or station," Lelling said. "These officers are charged with stealing taxpayer money, year after year, through fraud. Beyond the theft of funds, this kind of official misconduct also erodes trust in public institutions, at a time when that trust is most needed."

The indictments come while Lelling's office continues to process cases against at least eight Massachusetts State Police troopers accused by federal prosecutors of taking pay for overtime pay for shifts they did not work and covering their tracks by submitting falsified citations. A year ago, Lelling's office charged a past head of the State Police Association of Massachusetts with embezzling tens of thousands of dollars directly from the union.

The BPD officers involved in the alleged overtime fraud scheme were assigned to BPD's Evidence Control Unit, where they were eligible for various overtime assignments at time-and-a-half pay. By May 2016, Lelling alleged, the defendants "routinely departed overtime shifts two or more hours early but submitted



false and fraudulent overtime slips claiming to have worked the entirety of each shift.”

That includes “purge” overtime shifts during which officers were expected to reduce the inventory of the evidence warehouse from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays. Lelling said that on days when defendants claimed to have worked the full overtime shift, the warehouse was often “closed, locked and alarmed well before 8:00 p.m., and often by 6:00 p.m. or before.” The U.S. attorney said supervisors “knowingly endorsed the fraudulent overtime slips of their subordinates” by also leaving early and submitting falsified time records.

The officers are also accused of claiming overtime pay for “kiosk” overtime shifts they did not complete. One Saturday a month from 6:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., an officer would work overtime to collect surrendered prescription medications from police districts around the city and bring them to an incinerator in Saugus. Lelling’s office alleged that the defendants “routinely submitted overtime slips claiming to have worked eight and a half hours when in fact the defendants frequently completed the work and left the shift early, often before 10:00 a.m.”

Boston Police Commissioner William Gross said the three current Boston officers who were indicted have been suspended without pay pending the outcome of the case.

“The allegations and behavior alleged in today’s indictments is very troubling and in no way reflect the attitudes of the hard-working employees of the Boston Police Department. I hold my officers to the highest standards and expect them to obey all the laws that they have taken an oath to uphold,” Gross said. “News of these indictments sends a strong message that this type of behavior will not be tolerated or ignored and can damage the trust my officers have worked so hard to build with the communities we serve.”

Gross said his department's Anti-Corruption Unit uncovered information regarding alleged payroll/overtime abuse by evidence management unit officers and got the FBI and Lelling's office involved in the investigation.

Federal prosecutors said Torigian received more than \$43,000 for overtime hours he did not work; Twitchell, Oâ€™Brien and Doherty each received more than \$25,000 for overtime hours they did not work; Carnes and Lopez each received more than \$20,000 for overtime hours they did not work; and Murphy, Nelson and Conway each received more than \$15,000 for overtime hours they did not work.

The charge of conspiracy to commit theft concerning programs receiving federal funds could carry a sentence of up to 10 years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine, while the conspiracy charge could come with a sentence of up to five years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine, according to Lelling's office.

---

## **Massachusetts State Troopers arrest woman trafficking narcotics**

Shortly before 1 a.m. this morning Trooper Yardley Eugene and his Field Training Officer, Trooper Eric Savard, assigned to State Police-Norwell, were patrolling Route 3 in Hanover. While traveling northbound they conducted an RMV inquiry on a Honda CRV, which showed the vehicle was being operated with a rejected Massachusetts inspection. Trooper Eugene activated the cruiser's emergency lights and conducted a traffic stop on the Honda.

Once the vehicle came to a stop Troopers Eugene and Savard approached it and identified the operator as KATIE FIELD, 44, of Newton. After informing her why she was stopped Trooper Eugene requested her license and registration. Within several minutes it was learned that FIELD did not possess a driver's license. Troopers informed her she was going to be issued a criminal summons and her vehicle was going to be towed.

FIELD exited her vehicle, and, per department policy, the Troopers conducted an inventory of its contents. Trooper Savard immediately located a large amount of cash and quickly after that Trooper Eugene located a cigarette box with the words "do not throw away" containing 25 packages of Suboxone. After a subsequent search of the vehicle the Troopers located two small scales, approximately 14 grams of Heroin, a large amount of various prescription pills, including nearly 20 grams of Oxycodone, approximately \$1,400 in cash, and various other items consistent with the sale and distribution of narcotics.

FIELD was placed under arrest and transported to State Police-Norwell for booking. A bail commissioner was contacted and ordered FIELD to be held until her arraignment at Hingham District Court on the following offenses.

1. Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle;
  2. Possession of a Class A Substance with Intent to Distribute (two counts);
  3. Possession of a Class B Substance with Intent to Distribute;
  4. Trafficking a Class B Substance; and
  5. Failed Inspection Sticker.
-

# Massachusetts State Troopers arrest man with firearm, narcotics

At approximately 11 a.m. today Trooper Nidu Andrade and his Field Training Officer, a member of the H Troop Community Action Team, were on patrol traveling on Route 138 southbound in Canton. As they were approaching Route 93 they observed a gray Kia sedan traveling at a high rate of speed cutting off other vehicles.

The Troopers were able to catch up to the vehicle after it got stuck behind slower moving traffic. As it entered the on-ramp to Route 93 the operator increased speed to approximately 55 miles per hour where the posted speed limit is 35 mph. Trooper Andrade activated the cruiser's emergency lights and subsequently stopped it on Route 93 northbound prior to Exit 4.

After the vehicle stopped the Troopers approached it and attempted to identify the operator. After several minutes of conversation, it was determined that the operator provided a false name and date of birth with the intentions of concealing his true identity.

He was removed from the vehicle and eventually identified as RICHARD WIGFALL, 30, of Holbrook. It was determined on scene that WIGFALL's driver's license was revoked for a prior charge of Operating a Motor Vehicle Under the Influence of Alcohol. He was placed under arrest and seated in the rear of Trooper Andrade's cruiser.

After WIGFALL was secured the Troopers attempted to conduct an inventory of his vehicle prior to it being towed from the scene. During the inventory WIGFALL forcefully struck the interior window of the cruiser he was seated in and shattered

it. Additional Troopers responded to the scene for assistance.

Once WIGFALL was under watch Troopers continued the inventory. They located a loaded .380 caliber firearm with the serial defaced rendering it unable to be traced. WIGFALL does not possess a license to carry firearms. Troopers also located a small amount of a white substance believed to be Cocaine along with an open alcoholic beverage in the front cupholder.

Due to WIGFALL destroying the window on the first cruiser he was transferred to another cruiser then transported to State Police-Milton where he was booked. WIGFALL was able to post bail. He is expected to be arraigned at Stoughton District Court on the following offenses:

1. Possession of a Class B Substance;
2. Possession of a Firearm;
3. Possession of a Firearm with Defaced Serial Number;
4. Possession of Ammunition without FID Card;
5. Malicious Damage to Motor Vehicle;
6. Failure to Identify to Police;
7. Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Revoked License, Subsequent Offense;
8. Open Container of Alcohol in a Motor Vehicle;
9. Marked Lanes Violation; and
10. Speeding.

---

**New Bedford Police seize  
Fentanyl, \$11,000 in cash,**

# arrest two

New Bedford Police Department detectives located 82 grams of fentanyl and \$10,779 on August 31 at 19 Ernest St. Apt.

Angel Perez, 30, 19 Ernest St., and Cole Davignon, 25, 19 Ernest St. were both arrested and charged with drug trafficking and conspiracy.

Perez was on parole at the time of his arrest and a detainer violating his parole was lodged against him by Parole.

Detective Kevin Barbosa investigated the case.

If you have any information on criminal activity in your community, 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.



**New Bedford man arrested for**

# **trafficking fentanyl while on parole**

New Bedford Police Department detectives seized 82 grams of fentanyl and \$10,779 on August 31 at 19 Ernest Street apartment in New Bedford. Fentanyl is responsible for 93% of all overdose deaths in Massachusetts.

30-year old Angel Perez and 25-year old Cole Davignon, both of 19 Ernest Street in New Bedford, were arrested and charged with drug trafficking and conspiracy. Perez was on parole at the time of his arrest and a detainer violating his parole was lodged against him by Parole.

Detective Kevin Barbosa investigated the case. If you have any information on criminal activity in your community, 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.

---

## **New Bedford Police make arrest in Temple Landing shooting**

An arrest has been made in the Aug. 24 shooting at Temple Landing that left two males victims of gunshot wounds.

Miguel Santiago, 27, 79 Arlington St., Apt. #2, was charged with two counts of assault and battery by discharge of a firearm and discharge of a firearm within 500 ft. of a building.



NBPD detectives recovered a Smith & Wesson 9mm handgun, two magazines and 45 9mm rounds from his home.

If you have any information on criminal activity in your community, 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.