

# **Marion company indicted for allegedly conducting illegal asbestos work in New Bedford, 7 other cities**

“An environmental services company and its owners have been indicted on 98 counts in connection with worker safety violations and illegal asbestos work allegations conducted in New Bedford, Fall River, Dartmouth, North Andover, Stoughton, Bridgewater, West Bridgewater, and Brockton, Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell announced today.

Franklin Analytical Services, Inc. of Marion and its owners, Thomas J. McCoog, Sr. and Amy Franklin McCoog, also of Marion, were indicted by a statewide grand jury on 32 counts each of violating the Massachusetts Clean Air Act. The company and Thomas McCoog were also charged with one count each of reckless assault and battery causing serious bodily injury after an asbestos worker fell several stories through a roof after being repeatedly denied protective safety equipment.

The AG’s Office alleges that the defendants conducted illegal asbestos work at sites that include former industrial and construction sites in New Bedford, Fall River, Dartmouth, and North Andover, and illegally transported uncovered asbestos waste through Brockton, West Bridgewater and Bridgewater while en route to illegally dispose of asbestos waste at a recycling center in Stoughton.

The defendants will be arraigned on the charges in Bristol Superior Court, Essex Superior Court, Norfolk Superior Court, and Plymouth Superior Court at a later date.

Asbestos is a hazardous material and known human carcinogen regulated under the Clean Air Act. It is used as fire proofing

in a wide variety of building materials, from roofing and flooring, to siding and wallboard, to caulking and insulation. and is especially prevalent in older construction. If asbestos is improperly handled or maintained, fibers can be released into the air and inhaled, devastating the lungs, causing scarring, malfunction and potentially life-threatening illnesses, including asbestosis, lung cancer, and mesothelioma. Once disturbed, asbestos fibers can remain airborne, and therefore breathable for up to 72 hours. Because of the serious health risks associated with asbestos, there is no safe level of exposure.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection requires builders to conduct a professional asbestos survey prior to any demolition or renovation work, to notify MassDEP before working with any asbestos-containing material, and to carefully remove, wet, seal, and otherwise contain any asbestos-containing material to prevent the release of asbestos fibers into the air. Building sites and equipment must be carefully cleaned. Once removed, asbestos must be transported and disposed of at a special landfill.

For more information on asbestos and asbestos-related work, visit MassDEP's website outlining asbestos construction and demolition notification requirements. For more information about asbestos-related worker safety and school safety requirements, visit the Massachusetts Department of Labor Standards' website for its asbestos safety program.

The charges are the result of an investigation by the Massachusetts Environmental Crimes Strike Force, an interagency unit that includes prosecutors from the AG's Office, Environmental Police Officers assigned to the AG's Office, and investigators and engineers from MassDEP. The Strike Force is overseen by AG Campbell, MassDEP Commissioner Bonnie Heiple and Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper and investigates and prosecutes crimes that harm the state's water, air, land or that pose a significant

threat to human health, safety, welfare or the environment.

This case is being handled by Assistant Attorney General David Wittenberg and Assistant Attorney General Laila Atta, both of the AG's Environmental Crimes Strike Force Division, with assistance from Massachusetts Environmental Police detectives assigned to the AG's Office, Supervising Investigator Greg Reutlinger of the AG's Fair Labor Division, Asbestos Program Environmental Analyst Erin Ferreira-Jose, Asbestos Section Chief Colleen Ferguson, and Regional Enforcement Coordinator Cynthia Baran of MassDEP's Southeastern Regional Office, Asbestos Section Chief Grady Dante of MassDEP's Northeastern Regional Office, Investigator Steve Spencer of MassDEP's Environmental Strike Force, and Industrial Health and Safety Inspector Jeffrey Finnegan of the Department of Labor Standards."

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## **Massachusetts Police Departments start early crackdown on off-road vehicles on city streets**

"As warmer weather is approaching, the Boston Police Department has historically seen an increase in community complaints and quality of life concerns relative to off-road vehicles such as dirt bikes, ATVs, mopeds and motor scooters being driven around the city in a reckless and irresponsible manner. These vehicles usually travel in large groups with little regard for motor vehicle laws or public safety, causing havoc in the neighborhoods we serve despite the continued

efforts of BPD officers across the city.

Many of the offending vehicles are not properly registered, oftentimes have been previously reported stolen and usually stored in an improper and unsafe manner.

Community members with information relative to the illegal operation or storage of these recreational vehicles who wish to assist in these ongoing investigations 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 any such investigations in an anonymous manner.”-Boston Police Department.

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## **New Bedford man arrested last month with illegal gun at Trampoline Park sentenced**

“A 32-year-old New Bedford man arrested last month while carrying an illegal firearm inside the Funz Trampoline Park in New Bedford was sentenced yesterday in Fall River Superior Court to serve up to 15 years in state prison, Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced.

Chantra Say pled guilty in Fall River Superior Court on Tuesday to indictments charging him with Carrying an Illegal Firearm-Subsequent Offense with Two Priors, Unlawful Possession of Ammunition with two Prior Crime software Violence and Unlawful Possession of a Large Capacity Feeding

Device.

On March 4th New Bedford Police officers dispatched to the trampoline park for a report made by a juvenile caller of a male wearing a grey hooded sweatshirt, black ski mask, and blue jeans who had a gun in his pocket. Officers entered the establishment and observed the defendant matching that description. When officers approached the defendant, he turned to a second male, and pulled an object wrapped in a plastic bag from his waistband area. He attempted to hand the object to the second male who refused.

Officers recognized the item in the bag was shaped like a firearm. The officer grabbed the male's shoulders to detain him when the defendant tossed the bag in the garbage can. The firearm was recovered from the trash bin and was confirmed to be a Jimenez 9mm pistol, loaded with 12 rounds of ammunition in a 13 round magazine. The defendant initially provided a false name, but officers were ultimately able to confirm the identity of the male as the defendant with the assistance of the Massachusetts State Police Gang Unit.

This defendant has a prior conviction for possession of firearm and was on probation at the time of his arrest for an Armed Assault with Intent to Murder conviction.

The case, which went from arrest to indictment to conviction in just one month, was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Matthew Sylvia.

"Despite being on probation for a prior shooting, the defendant was walking around in a park for children with a loaded gun. He has a history of convictions for violent offenses and clearly continues to be a significant danger to the community. I'm pleased this case was resolved very quickly and that the defendant will be off the street for up to fifteen years," District Attorney Quinn said.:

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# Massachusetts State Police charge two after seizure of Fentanyl, “Ghost” guns, firearms

“A three-month investigation by a Massachusetts State Police drug task force and Brockton Police resulted in the arrests of two men and the seizure of more than 800 grams of fentanyl and several “ghost guns,” illegal magazines, and assorted firearm parts.

Troopers and Officers executed search warrants on the morning of Friday, March 31 at a Moraine Street, Brockton, residence and on a 2016 Audi A7 sedan, and observed evidence of firearm and narcotics manufacturing and trafficking.

During the raid, Troopers and Officers recovered seven “ghost guns” – pistols and rifles – as well as ammunition, firearms parts, numerous large capacity magazines, gun manufacturing tools and equipment, and additional guns in various states of manufacture. “Ghost guns” are firearms assembled by a private individual from separately obtained parts, and which are thus difficult to trace. Investigators also located and seized approximately 834 grams of Fentanyl, associated cutting agents – materials that traffickers mix with narcotics prior sale to stretch out their supply – and a mill and kilogram press used in the manufacturing and packaging of drugs for illicit sale.



*Massachusetts State Police photo.*

Two targets of the investigation, SHEM KHATTIYA, 38, and his son, NATHEN KHATTIYA, 20, both of Brockton, were arrested and charged with the following offenses:

**SHEM KHATTIYA:**

- Trafficking Fentanyl;
- Trafficking firearms;
- Distribution of a Class C narcotic (Xanax);
- Unlawful possession of a firearm (seven counts);
- Unlawful possession of ammunition;
- Unlawful possession of a large capacity feeding device (29 counts); and
- Receiving stolen property (a firearm).

**NATHEN KHATTIYA:**

- Unlawful possession of ammunition; and
- Unlawful possession of a large capacity feeding device (three counts).

The investigation was launched by the south squad of the State Police Commonwealth Interstate Narcotics Reduction and Enforcement Team (CINRET-South) and Brockton Police after intelligence indicted that SHEM KHATTIYA was distributing Fentanyl in Plymouth County. The Massachusetts State Police CINRET-South task force comprised of State Troopers, local police officers, federal agents and a National Guard analyst. Troopers from the State Police Detective Unit for Plymouth County assisted in the warrant execution and arrests, as did a Trooper from the State Police-Middleton Barracks.

In addition to the South squad, the MSP operates CINRET task forces in northeastern and western Massachusetts.”-Massachusetts State Police.

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## **Massachusetts sex offender sentenced in Boston for sexually exploiting a 12-year-old girl**

“A registered sex offender from Lawrence has been sentenced in federal court in Boston for sexually exploiting a 12-year-old girl.

Irvin Abreu, 38, was sentenced on March 31, 2023 by US District Judge Patti B. Saris to 315 months in prison and 10



years of supervised release. In April 2022, Abreu pleaded guilty to one count of sexual exploitation of children.

“Upon being released from custody for enticing a 15-year-old child, Mr. Abreu – a registered sex offender – immediately began to sexualize and harm another child. His victim was even younger this time at 12 years old. This recidivist is a predator who has repeatedly sought out to harm innocent children and rob them of their childhood. He is a danger to our society and remains exactly where he belongs – behind bars and away from our children. We commend the victim’s mother for reporting this predator’s exploitation and harm of her child so swiftly,” said United States Attorney Rachael S. Rollins.

“Abreu is a registered sex offender who went on to offend again, sexually abusing a child and documenting the abuse by producing child exploitation material. We are grateful to our law enforcement partners whose vigilance and collaboration brought this case to our attention and has resulted in this significant sentence,” said Michael J. Krol, Acting Special Agent in Charge for Homeland Security Investigations in New England.

Two months after being released from state custody and placed on probation for the exploitation of a 15-year-old girl, Abreu met a 12-year-old girl on the internet, groomed her and had sex with her on more than one occasion, documenting the sexual abuse in videos and photographs. The victim’s mother discovered communications between them and immediately reported the matter to local police. Forensic analysis of Abreu’s phone revealed photos, videos and text messages, including imagery depicting his sexual abuse of and sexualized communications with the victim. Additionally, Abreu’s internet history revealed searches for elementary schools in Lawrence, an internet search for “first time sex positions for virgins,” and an internet search for “what does pedophile mean.”

U.S. Attorney Rollins and HSI Acting SAC Krol made the

announcement. Valuable assistance was provided by the Lawrence Police Department and the Essex County District Attorney's Office. Assistant U.S. Attorney Anne Paruti, Chief of Rollins' Major Crimes Unit and the District's Project Safe Childhood Coordinator, 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.

"My office is also committed to prevention," said U.S. Attorney Rollins. "In addition to our school-based outreach, we offer trainings for parents and guardians across the Commonwealth to help demystify some of the ways predators access our children through modern technology. We will always investigate and prosecute predators, while simultaneously committing to educate caregivers about the dangers our young people can face in the digital world." For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit <https://www.justice.gov/psc>."

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## **Rochester Police arrest New Bedford man after car accident on Mattapoissett Road**

"On Sunday, April 2, at 12:25am, Officer Matias and Officer Connolly were dispatched to Mattapoissett Rd after the Regional

Old Colony Communications Center received an Apple Crash Notification with no response from the operator.

Upon arrival, the officers found a crashed Toyota Camry with no occupants. With the assistance of Sgt. Randall and Officer Lacasse from the Mattapoisett Police Department, a search of the area was conducted to locate the possibly injured operator.

A few minutes later, Officer Matias located a male party lying in a wooded area close to the crash scene. The male party was detained without incident and was identified as the registered owner of the vehicle, Jared VASCONCELOS.

While speaking with Vasconcelos, Officer Matias observed several indicators of impairment at which time he was placed under arrest for OUI-Alcohol. Vasconcelos was transported to the Rochester Police Station for booking and was released on bail. He was arraigned Monday April 3rd at Wareham District Court on the following charges.

**Jared VASCONCELOS, 32**

*New Bedford, Massachusetts*

- Ch. 90-24/J OUI Alcohol
- Ch. 90-24/C Leaving the Scene of Property Damage

The Rochester Police Department was assisted during the incident by the Mattapoisett and Marion Police Departments."- Rochester Police Department.

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## **Bourne woman leads Sheriffs**

# Department, Rochester police on chase through 2 towns

"On Saturday April 1, 2023, at 6:15pm, Officer Alves and Officer Leddin were in a two-officer patrol car and conducting a property check of Season's Corner Market located at 8 Cranberry Highway.

As they pulled into the parking lot, they were flagged down by an off-duty State Trooper who reported a suspicious female party asking people for money. Officer Alves was given the plate number of the female's vehicle and was able to locate the vehicle parked beside a gas pump.

As Officer Alves proceeded into the parking lot of Season's, the vehicle began to move and the operator began to head for the rear exit onto Rt.58. After conducting a plate inquiry and observing the vehicle to have an expired inspection sticker, Officer Alves pulled out behind the vehicle and activated his emergency lights and sirens to effect a traffic stop.

The female failed to stop for the officers and took a left turn onto Cranberry Highway and entered the town of Wareham. The vehicle continued to flee until it pulled into the Mobil station at the intersection of Doty St and Cranberry Highway. As the vehicle pulled into the Mobil station the operator threw an open container of alcohol out of the driver's side window. The vehicle eventually stopped in front of a gas pump at the Mobil and the female operator was taken into custody without incident.

She was identified as Darlene RODRIGUES of Bourne, MA.

After locating drug paraphernalia during an administrative inventory of the vehicle, Deputy Johnson and his K-9 partner, K-9 Suni, were called to the scene. K-9 Suni alerted to two locations inside the vehicle. Items discovered during the

search were removed from the vehicle and entered into evidence.

RODRIGUES was transported back to the Rochester Police Station where she was booked and held overnight after she was unable to make bail. She was arraigned on Monday April 3rd at Wareham District Court on the following charges.

**Darlene RODRIGUES, 56**

*Bourne, Massachusetts*

- Ch. 90-25 Failure to Stop for Police
- Ch. 90-24 Negligent Operation
- Ch. 90-24 Open Container Alcohol in MV
- Ch. 94C-34 Possession Class B Substance
- Ch. 268-13B Obstruction
- Ch. 270-16 Litter from MV
- Ch. 90-20 No inspection

Assistance was provided during the incident by the Wareham Police Department, Plymouth County Sheriffs Department (K-9), and

Plymouth County Sheriffs Department (Matron)."-Rochester Police Department.

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# **Cambridge Police arrest man in decades old cold case involving violent rape of a**

# child

**\*Warning: Some of the details outlined below may be difficult for some followers to read and process\***

An investigative breakthrough that was led by our hard-working detectives, Crime Scene Services personnel, and the District Attorney's Cold Case Unit has resulted in the identification and arrest of a Cambridge man wanted in connection with a 20+ year- old sexual assault cold case that involved a 13-year-old girl.

In the early morning hours of October 18, 2000, a male intruder entered the victim's home in Cambridge, where she lived with her mother and father. When he reached her second floor bedroom, he rushed to the victim's bed, covered her mouth with his hand, and ordered her to be quiet. The intruder then sexually assaulted her. During the attack, he specifically asked the victim how old she was, and she told him truthfully that she was only thirteen. When she had an opportunity to escape, the victim ran out of her bedroom and screamed for help. The intruder followed her out of the bedroom, then ran past her down a flight of stairs and out of the house.

Cambridge Police responded to the scene and searched the neighborhood for the attacker without success. A crime scene response team searched the home, gathering evidence and looking for objects that were out of place. They observed a jewelry box that had been moved, and recovered a latent fingerprint from the exterior of the box. In 2009, police were able to identify that print as having been left by the left middle finger of Roger Reddick, Jr. but did not at that point have sufficient corroboration to charge him.

Also recovered from the scene were a pair of green patterned men's boxer shorts that had been left behind at the foot of

the victim's bed. Police confirmed that they did not belong to the victim or to any member of her family, and that they had not been there when the victim went to sleep. Chemists from the State Police Crime Laboratory attempted to develop a DNA profile from the boxer shorts, but were unable to develop a profile that was eligible to upload to the national DNA database.

In September of 2022, the Cold Case Unit and Cambridge Police began a renewed examination of this case working with the crime laboratory, which was able to utilize the advances in technology that had occurred since the original testing. They were able to identify Roger Reddick, Jr. as the source of the major DNA profile on the green boxers.

"This case represents how committed the Cambridge Police Department is to bringing justice to survivors and their families, and how diligent we will work with our partners to ensure violent criminals are identified and apprehended, no matter how long it takes," said Cambridge Police Commissioner Christine Elow. "We will always be here for survivors and will never give up trying to find and prosecute the people behind such horrendous acts."

At the time of the offense, Reddick was a resident of the City of Cambridge who lived less than half a mile from the scene of the crime."-Cambridge Police Department.

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## **New Bedford "Karen" threatens dog walkers with leaving**

# poisoned dog treats at park

We all see dog walkers not cleaning up after their dogs and no one likes to accidentally step on a poop landmine. One "Karen" or "Kevin" is so fed up with people not cleaning up after their dogs at the small park on Hawthorn Street across from St. Luke's Hospital that she left a nasty sign posted on a lamp post at the gate.

While the small park isn't designated as a dog park, the heavily settled area doesn't leave many options for people to take their dogs to relieve themselves so it's become a destination.

On Saturday morning, locals were surprised to find a large notice posted up. In large written block letters the sign warned,

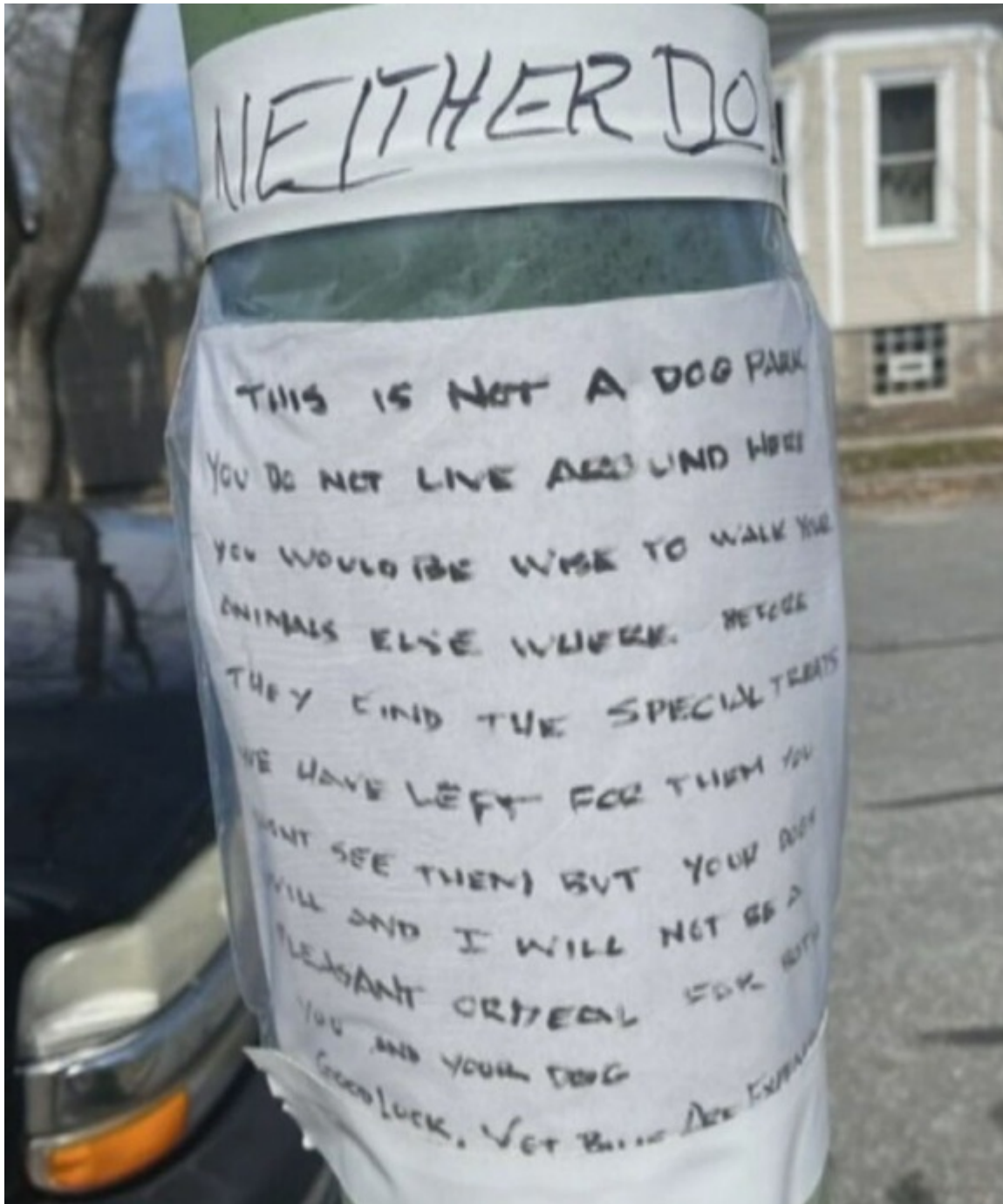
***"This is not a dog park. You do not live around here, You would be wise to walk your animals else [sic] where. Whether they find the special treats we have left for them you won't see them but your dogs will and it will not be a pleasant ordeal for you and your dog.***

Good luck, vet bills are expensive!"

While not cleaning up your dog is irresponsible, poisoning a dog is a crime. Punishing an innocent dog because of the actions of a lazy owner lacks common sense and is not only irresponsible but immoral. The dog doesn't know better.

Animal control, the New Bedford Police, and Mayor Mitchell were immediately notified of the threats and the city took down the poster and replaced it with an official notice saying that are aware of the threat and will be investigating it.





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**Weekend arrests by New  
Bedford Police Detectives**

# include juvenile, net firearms and narcotics

" On March 31st, detectives assigned to the "Organized Crime Intelligence Bureau" executed a search warrant at 188 Weld St. #4. The target of the search warrant was GEOFFREY TERRY, 47. As a result of the search, detectives located approximately 115 grams of "crack" cocaine along with digital scales, packaging materials, and cellular phones. \$170 in cash was seized by detectives as well.

Also in the apartment was TERRY's live-in girlfriend, Ms. DESIREE COVELL, 53. Two licensed firearms belonging to COVELL were located. One such firearm had not been properly secured. Both firearms were seized, along with COVELL's firearms license, as a result of the nature of her charges.

Both TERRY and COVELL were charged with trafficking in excess of 100 grams of "crack" cocaine and conspiracy to violate the controlled substance laws. COVELL was also charged with improper storage of a firearm. TERRY was previously convicted of possession of a class "B" substance with intent to distribute in 2010, making this a subsequent offense.

Det. Alan Kubik was the primary investigator.

On April 1st, detectives concluded an investigation into a 16-year-old juvenile suspected of carrying a gun. The investigation culminated in a traffic stop during which the juvenile was found to be in possession of a large-capacity firearm and an opened bottle of tequila. The weapon was found to be a loaded Glock 9mm pistol with a magazine capable of holding 17 rounds of ammunition and a mounted targeting laser affixed to it. The juvenile was taken into custody and charged with carrying a loaded, large-capacity firearm without a license and possession of liquor.

The arresting officer was Det. Nathaniel Almeida

We remind you once again that 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. You can also leave a tip at our website, [www.newbedfordpd.com](http://www.newbedfordpd.com).”-New Bedford Police Department.