

# New York woman pleads guilty to trafficking Fentanyl into Massachusetts

"A New York woman pleaded guilty on Sept. 15, 2022 in federal court in Boston in connection with trafficking five kilograms of fentanyl.

Shanese DeJesus, 25, pleaded guilty to one count of distribution and possession with intent to distribute 400 grams or more fentanyl. U.S. District Court Chief Judge F. Dennis Saylor IV scheduled sentencing for Dec. 15, 2022. DeJesus was indicted by a federal grand jury on Jan. 5, 2022.

"Lives of real people in our communities are being destroyed by opioids on a daily basis. These are brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, sons and daughters. Ms. DeJesus trafficked five kilograms of fentanyl, a drug that kills more Americans each year than any other," said United States Attorney Rachael S. Rollins. "We will continue to prosecute anyone who jeopardizes the wellbeing of residents of our Commonwealth by distributing deadly drugs."

"The state of Massachusetts is faced with an opioid crisis unlike ever before," said Brian D. Boyle, Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration, New England Field Division. "Those responsible for distributing lethal drugs like fentanyl to the citizens of Massachusetts need to be held accountable for their actions. DEA will aggressively pursue Drug Trafficking Organizations and individuals like Ms. DeJesus who distribute this poison in order to profit and destroy people's lives. This investigation demonstrates the strength and continued commitment of our local, state and federal law enforcement partners."

In October 2021, DeJesus drove from the New York City area to

a hotel parking lot in Andover to deliver approximately five kilograms of fentanyl to a cooperating source. Upon arriving in the parking lot, DeJesus retrieved a shopping bag from her trunk and entered the source's vehicle. Inside the shopping bag were two UPS boxes that were addressed to DeJesus' home in Brooklyn, N.Y. and contained a total of five kilograms of fentanyl.

The charge of distribution and possession with intent to distribute 400 grams or more of fentanyl provides for a sentence of at least 10 years and up to life in prison, at least five years and up to a lifetime of supervised release and a fine up to \$10 million. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and statutes which govern the determination of a sentence in a criminal case.

U.S. Attorney Rollins; DEA SAC Boyle; Colonel Christopher Mason, Superintendent of the Massachusetts State Police; and Colonel Nathan Noyes, Director of the New Hampshire State Police made the announcement. Assistant U.S. Attorney John T. Mulcahy of Rollins' Narcotics & Money Laundering Unit is prosecuting the case." -Massachusetts Department of Justice.

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## **Massachusetts D.A., Taunton Police investigating 26-year old woman dead from gunshot wound**

"Prosecutors, State Police detectives assigned to the district attorney's office and Taunton Police are actively

investigating a suspicious death, which occurred last night in The City of Taunton.

At around 11 pm Wednesday, Taunton Police received a 911 call from an apartment at 52 Tremont Street regarding a woman suffering from a gunshot wound. When first responders arrived they located the victim, later identified as Colby Dowling, 26, of Lakeville. Ms. Dowling was declared deceased at the scene.

Several people were inside the apartment at the time of the incident.

Due to the ongoing nature of this investigation, no further information can be released at this time." -Bristol County District Attorney's Office.

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## **Pennsylvania Police searching for New Bedford man; wanted for child endangerment, fleeing police**

Jose L. Santiago, 41, of New Bedford is wanted for endangering a child and fleeing police near the Colonial Park Mall located at 4600 Jonestown Road in Harrisburg, PA on Aug. 20.

He was arrested and held in the Dauphin County Prison but released the next day on a \$10,000 surety bond. He failed to show up for his preliminary hearing and a warrant was issued for his arrest by Magisterial District Judge William Wenner on Thursday, Sept. 1.

Jose L. Santiago was charged with the following offenses:

- Two felonies for Fleeing or Attempting to Elude Officer;
- Endangering Welfare of Children;
- Parent/Guardian/Other Commits Offense;
- Three misdemeanors Intentional Possession of a Controlled Substance by Person Not Registered;
- Recklessly Endangering Another Person;
- Three summary charges for Driving While Operator Privilege Suspect Or Revoked;
- Restrictions on Alcoholic Beverages;
- Obedience to Traffic-Control Devices.

The Lower Paxton Township Police Department is requesting assistance in locating the current whereabouts of Jose L. Santiago. Anyone with information should please contact Det. Dan Smeck at 717-554-1341 or submit an anonymous tip.

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## **New Bedford Police Department arrest six individuals for Fentanyl, cocaine**

“On Wednesday, September 14, detectives executed a search warrant for a tenement on Rodney Street with the target being JOSEPH DEMERS, 56.

This investigation was subsequent to numerous complaints from concerned neighbors. After making entry, detectives located 13 oxycodone tablets, a plastic bag of cocaine weighing .5 grams, cutting agents, 5 digital scales, packaging materials, and loose fentanyl packaged in a manner for street-level sales totaling approximately 8 grams.

Detectives arrested six people in the apartment at the time of the search including JONATHAN DIGAETANO, 36, of 1959 Purchase Street, AMANDA YAPEJIAN, 36, of 79 Rodney Street, ROBERT MILLS, 37, of 70 Rodney Street, SANDRA DUNN, 54, of Fairhaven, STEVEN GALIPEAU, 41, of 287 Coffin Avenue, and DEMERS.

While the parties present were being searched, detectives also located Fentanyl weighing .2 grams on MILLS. DEMERS was charged with two counts of possession to distribute a class A drug, two counts of possession to distribute a class B drug, conspiracy to violate the drug law, and two warrant arrests.

DUNN was charged with possession to distribute a class A drug, possession to distribute a class B drug, and conspiracy to violate the drug law.

MILLS was charged with two counts of possession to distribute a class A drug, conspiracy to violate the drug law, and a warrant arrest.

DIGAETANO and GALIPEAU were charged with possession to distribute a class A drug and conspiracy to violate the drug law.

YAPEJIAN was charged with two counts of possession to distribute a class A drug and conspiracy to violate the drug law." -New Bedford Police Department.

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**Ohio man arrested in Boston,  
charged with possessing 2,800**

# videos, images of child sexual abuse

“An Ohio man has been arrested in connection with possessing child sexual abuse material (CSAM).

Thiago da Silva Pinheiro, 42, of Cincinnati, Ohio was charged with one count of possession of child pornography. Following an initial appearance in federal court in Boston today before U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge Paul G. Levenson, Pinheiro was detained pending a detention hearing scheduled for Sept. 22, 2022.

According to the charging documents, on Sept. 20, 2022, Pinheiro flew from Ontario, Canada to Boston with an ultimate destination of Brazil. During a screening by Customs and Border Protection at Logan Airport, customs officers observed apparent child sexual abuse material (CSAM) on Pinheiro’s tablet. It is alleged that a preliminary review of the tablet revealed approximately 2,800 videos and images depicting apparent CSAM, some of which depicted children as young as two to four years old.

The charge of possession of child pornography provides for a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, at least five years and up to a lifetime 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 statutes which govern the determination of a sentence in a criminal case.

United States Attorney Rachael S. Rollins and Matthew B. Millhollin, Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations in New England made the announcement today. Valuable assistance was provided by Customs and Border Protection. Assistant U.S. Attorney Meghan C. Cleary of

Rollins' Major Crimes Unit is prosecuting 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>.

The details contained in the charging documents are allegations. The defendant is 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 Environmental Police charge one for baiting bears in off-season**

"At the end of the 2021 bear season, Massachusetts Environmental Police Officers were notified of two tree stands that were set over bait.

Prior to the start of the 2022 bear season, Officers checked the area and found that it had been baited five days prior to the season opening. Over the course of several days, Officers surveilled the area.

On Saturday, September 10, 2022, Officers observed two

individuals in the stands, one with a rifle, over the baited area. Officers further observed that the bait had been replenished, to include sunflower seeds, popcorn, marshmallows, and peanut butter spread on trees.

The individual admitted to hunting bear, and was subsequently charged with hunting bear over bait. The rifle was seized and the area has been closed for bear hunting until the day following the close of the November portion of bear season and all days inclusive.” -Massachusetts Environmental Police.

### **Illegal hunting methods:**

- It is illegal to use dogs during bear hunting
  - Using bait for bear hunting is illegal, including use of lure, scents or any substance that may attract a bear.
  - Wanton waste: It is unlawful to intentionally leave a wounded or dead animal in the field or forest without making a reasonable effort to retrieve and use it. However, this does not apply to animals unfit for consumption use (animals that parts are damaged, destroyed, decayed, rotting, diseased, or infected.)
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## **61-year old Boston man, career criminal, sentenced for kidnapping of Wendy's employee**

“A 61-year-old Boston man with a lengthy record of convictions who kidnapped and robbed a Seekonk Wendy's employee was sentenced to lie in prison today after being convicted

following a week-long trial in Fall River Superior Court.

Todd Johnson was convicted by a jury of his pers of armed and masked robbery and kidnapping. He was also found to be a "habitual criminal" under Massachusetts law, which enhanced his prison penalty.

On March 12, 2018 at 4am, the female victim was leaving her job at Wendy's in Seekonk alone. When she reached her car, the masked defendant approached and put a gun to her and demanded her deposit bags. The victim explained she had no money, at which point the defendant forced her to empty her pockets. She pulled out her cell phone, which the defendant took from her. He then forced her back into the restaurant at gun point to open up the safe.

Inside the restaurant surveillance cameras caught the incident. The victim was unable to open the safe because it was on a timer. The defendant then tried to tie up victim with zip ties. At that point, the victim began pleading with defendant and told him there were silent alarms throughout the restaurant. This spooked the defendant and caused him to flee the restaurant. The victim immediately called 911 from the office phone and then hid in the walk-in freezer until police arrived.

The defendant was arrested a short time later at Stateline Auto just over the border in East Providence, RI, while hiding under a car.

The defendant was initially held without bail as a danger, but was ultimately released due to Covid. After his release, he committed a larceny offense in Suffolk and had his bail revoked. He eventually was released again and committed an Armed/ Masked Robbery in Jamaica Plain. He has since been indicted as a Habitual Offender in Suffolk County. He has served lengthy state prison sentences in the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s for similar crimes and drug distribution offenses.

Since he qualified as a “habitual criminal,” he was sentenced today by Judge Daniel O’Shea to life in prison with the possibility of parole after 15 years.

“The defendant is a career criminal who was released on this case during the pandemic only to then commit another armed robbery in Boston. The defendant has a long history of committing armed robberies and this sentence was necessary to protect the public from this habitual criminal,” District Attorney Quinn said.

The case was prosecuted by Co-First Assistant District Attorney Karen O’Sullivan.” -D.A. Quinn’s Office.

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## **New Bedford Police Department seizes nearly 600 grams of Fentanyl, 2 arrested**

“On Thursday, September 15, detectives executed a search warrant for a Nash Road residence. On Monday, September 19, at about 2 p.m., detectives entered the home and located a toolbox that contained 33 plastic bags of fentanyl pills weighing 356 grams, 11 plastic bags of fentanyl weighing 237 grams, cutting agent, digital scales, drug ledger, and three cellphones.

The homeowner, identified as KENNY GONZALEZ, 44, was arrested and charged with trafficking 200 grams or more of fentanyl, possession to distribute a class A drug, conspiracy to violate the drug law, and a career criminal act- violent crime or serious drug.

GONZALEZ was previously found guilty for the distribution of a controlled class A substance on Sept. 7, 2000, guilty for assault and battery with a dangerous weapon on June 30, 2003, and guilty for manslaughter on July 6, 2005.

His girlfriend, identified as ILIANA SANCHEZ-PAGAN, 33, was charged with trafficking 200 grams or more of fentanyl/morphine/opium, conspiracy to violate the drug law, and a warrant arrest.

The arresting officer was Det. Dre Frenette.”



*New Bedford Police Department photo.*

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# Unlicensed Driver Flees Police, Crashes Into Parked Vehicles in New Bedford

On September 18th at approximately 10 AM, a south-end patrol unit attempted to stop an unregistered and uninsured vehicle traveling on Crapo St. The vehicle fled from officers, operating erratically at a high rate of speed and subsequently struck two parked autos on Nelson St. before continuing on.

The vehicle ultimately came to a stop in the area of Brock Ave. and Calumet St. and the operator, who was found to be unlicensed, was taken into custody.

He was identified as EDMILSON FERNANDES DA SILVA, 19, of 13 Rodney French Blvd. DA SILVA was charged with operating an unlicensed/uninsured vehicle to endanger, unlicensed operation, leaving the scene of property damage, and failing to stop for police.

Photos provided by Carlos Felix.



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## **Brockton woman sentenced for role in conspiracy to operate a prostitution business**

"A Brockton woman was sentenced on Sept. 15, 2022 in federal court in Boston for her involvement in a conspiracy that involved coercing young women to engage in prostitution.

Natashia Bowman, 35, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Alison D. Burroughs to three years of probation and was ordered to pay restitution to victims. In September 2020,

Bowman pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit interstate travel in aid of a racketeering enterprise related to a prostitution business.

Bowman was charged by an Information in November 2019 for her involvement in a sex trafficking business ran by co-conspirator Matthew Engram, a/k/a "Magic." From January 2009 until August 2015, Bowman assisted Engram in the recruitment and trafficking of multiple victims from a residence in Brockton and elsewhere to engage in commercial sex acts and took all or part of the proceeds for the financial benefit of the enterprise.

Engram and Bowman recruited multiple victims by falsely promising good earnings. Engram and Bowman advertised the victims on websites and Engram exchanged text messages with Bowman to share advertisements, organized prostitution dates and reserved hotel rooms. To maintain control, Engram used physical violence, intimidation and isolation to create a climate of fear that compelled the victims to continue engaging in commercial sex acts for the profit of the prostitution business. When the victims did not comply with Engram's demands or did not make enough money, he physically assaulted them or directed Bowman to physically assault them. Engram or Bowman also transported the victims to other states, including Florida, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Vermont, and Pennsylvania, to perform commercial sex acts for the business.

On May 19, 2022, Engram was sentenced by Judge Burroughs to 12 years in prison and five years of supervised release after previously pleading guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit sex trafficking, two counts of transportation of an individual for purposes of prostitution and one count of conspiracy to commit interstate travel in aid of a racketeering enterprise.

United States Attorney Rachael S. Rollins; Assistant Attorney

General Kristen Clarke; Matthew B. Millhollin, Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations in New England; Brockton Police Chief Brenda Perez; and Boston Police Commissioner Michael Cox made the announcement today. Assistance was provided by Homeland Security Investigations in Philadelphia. Assistant U.S. Attorney Suzanne Sullivan Jacobus of Rollins' Major Crimes Unit and Trial Attorneys Shan Patel and Vasantha Rao of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division prosecuted the case." -Massachusetts Department of Justice.