

# City of New Bedford awarded \$1.7M RAISE Grant from U.S. DoT

“The U.S. Department of Transportation has awarded the City of New Bedford a \$1.7 Million Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The RAISE Program focuses on planning and capital investments that support roads, bridges, transit, rail, ports, and intermodal transportation.

This planning grant will be allocated to advance the design, permitting, and continuation of public outreach for the City’s Blue Lane Working Waterfront Connector Project (BLWWC). THE BLWWC project will reconstruct three continuous major roadways in the Port of New Bedford and is a project based on a feasibility study prepared by the City in 2020. Planned improvements along MacArthur Drive, Herman Melville Boulevard, and North Front Street will enhance access to waterfront industries, the intercity rail, recreational opportunities, and tourist destinations fostering safe, non-motorized travel for all, especially for waterfront employees.



*City of New Bedford photo.*

The project ultimately would include underground infrastructure, including the replacement of water, sewer, and stormwater pipelines to improve climate change resiliency along with the incorporation of green infrastructure elements to meet the state's Clean Water Act municipal stormwater discharge requirements.

It would also include the installation of fiber optic cable to serve areas in need of high-speed internet access. Streetscape improvements would include the construction of a shared-use pathway accompanied by pedestrian-scale street lighting and Americans with Disability Act-compliant crosswalks and access ramps to foster walking and biking along the corridor. Traffic signal upgrades would enhance the safety of many of our fishing industry workers who live in the surrounding neighborhoods and walk or bike to work.

"This planning grant will enable us to tie together various neighborhood improvement and economic development efforts," said Mayor Jon Mitchell. "I want to thank the Biden Administration and the Congressional delegation for making these resources available."

"New Bedford's working waterfront is home to the top fishing port in the nation, the hub of the offshore wind industry, and is a top tourist destination in the region, and this RAISE grant will improve access to the waterfront for workers, residents, and tourists alike while taking cars off the road and improving water quality," said Congressman Bill Keating. "In passing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, President Biden promised to create jobs, modernize our infrastructure, and turn the climate crisis into an economic opportunity – and this RAISE grant for the BLWWC Project does just that. I commend the City of New Bedford for submitting this successful grant application that I was proud to support."

"The BLWWC Projects aligns with the Planning Department's

ongoing waterfront planning, recognizing the significance of the City's strategic port location to advance economic development," said Director of City Planning, Jennifer Carloni. "The proposed infrastructure planning supports a future vision of a waterfront that continues to represent New Bedford's rich history, supports industries of today and tomorrow, and broadens public access."

The BLWWC Project would fill a critical network gap in the City's Blue Lane network, an 11-mile waterfront pathway network spanning the City's shoreline. The BLWWC will connect the Blue Lane's existing CoveWalk and HarborWalk (pathways atop the New Bedford Hurricane barrier) as well as the RiverWalk (a planned pathway along the shoreline of the Acushnet River). This connection will provide safe and convenient access to the working waterfront, State Pier, downtown, nearby neighborhoods, and the intercity rail station."-City of New Bedford.

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## **Liquor store fighting back against the City of New Bedford's "Nip Bottle Ban"**

"Freitas Package Store" located at 1295 Cove Rd, New Bedford is making a vocal push against the idea to ban the sale of "nip bottles" in the City of New Bedford.

The store is currently displaying a message reading, "Stop NB Nip Ban Sign Petition Inside" on their sign outside the store. They also posted this message on social media:

*"New Bedford did you know the city is trying to ban nips*

*without resident vote!?*

Let's push the conversation away from banning nips town by town without city wide vote. Instead let's encourage our city representative and lawmakers to move this issue to the state and update the bottle bill that has not been updated since 1982. That's 41 years ago...

Banning nips is not the solution.

Sign the petition.

City meeting Monday July 24th 6pm"

Other towns and cities across Massachusetts have already passed the ban on nips, including Fairhaven which made the decision at a town meeting on May 6th 2023. Some will say this is an overstepping of local government restricting small businesses, while others believe this is a step in the right direction in regards to a cleaner environment.



*Steven Richards photo.*

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**BREAKING: New Bedford, Police**

# Union reach agreement on salary increase, body-worn cameras

On late Wednesday morning of July 12th the City of New Bedford put out this press release regarding the ongoing negotiation between the City and The New Bedford Police Union:

**New Bedford, MA** – After months of negotiation, the City and the New Bedford Police Union have entered a new collective bargaining agreement, which will increase police wages and benefits to address the Police Department's staffing shortages. The agreement also paves the way for the use of body-worn cameras by all officers. The agreement runs from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2024, and is subject to City Council approval.

## **The agreement includes the following new provisions:**

- The residency requirement for new officers would be reduced from ten years to four years, and the City is authorized to waive the requirement if the Department's staffing needs demand it.
- 2% cost of living adjustment in each year of the contract.
- 2% added to the base pay for the officer's certification by the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Commission, effective January 1, 2024, and again on June 30, 2024.
- Effective on July 1, 2022: Step 1 on the pay scale is eliminated.
- Effective on July 1, 2023: Step 2 on the pay scale is eliminated and a new step, Step 6, is created at 2% above Step 5.
- For officers with 15+ years of service in the New Bedford Police Department, a new 15-year step is created at 4% above Step 5.

- Step 5A becomes the 25-year step at 6% above Step 5 for officers with 25+ years of service.
- Rank differential is increased to 18%.
- \$3,000 retention payment for officers who remain employed with the City 30 days after City Council funds the contract.
- Education incentive payments are increased, and additional degrees are added to the list of qualifying degrees.
- Vacation time added for officers with 15-20 years of service.
- Added pay for officers who work on Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- Restrictions on the use of sick time.
- The police chief may use retired officers to conduct background checks.
- After training, the department can begin to introduce body-worn cameras.

*"I am pleased that both sides worked toward a resolution that enables us to address staffing shortages with which departments across America are struggling," said Mayor Jon Mitchell. "I am proud of the work our officers do to keep New Bedford safe, and I believe that this new contract will put them in a stronger position to achieve professional success."*

*"I'm very pleased that the City has reached an amicable agreement with the union and settled this contract," said Police Chief Paul Oliveira. "I look forward to working with the union leadership as we continue to serve the citizens of New Bedford. As always, I remain very proud of the men and women of this department."*

**The term of the contract is estimated to cost \$3.5 million from the City's General Fund.**

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# New Bedford jewelry store to open second location in Dartmouth Towne Center

“Paradise Jewelry” is opening up its second location at 440 State Road in Dartmouth within the “Dartmouth Towne Center” shopping plaza.

Their flagship location is located at 71 County Street in New Bedford and offers gold jewelry, ring resizing, new watches, jewelry repair, as well as Portuguese gold products!

They have yet to announce an official opening date but did post this message on social media:

*Exciting news coming soon!!*

*We are opening our second location at  
440 State Road in Dartmouth, MA.*

*Look for us in the Dartmouth Towne Center next to T.J. Maxx  
this summer!*

The Dartmouth Towne Center is in the middle of a shopping renaissance with the blend of several stores closing and several businesses opening. We have now seen the addition of Crumbl Cookies, Open Doors Yoga, a Tesla charging Station and Paradise Jewelry in recent months.

Hopefully this a new chapter of a strong future for business in Dartmouth Towne Center, the tall task ahead is to find a new home for the vacant Bed, Bath and Beyond & the Circuit City buildings.





*Steven Richards photo.*

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## **24 luxury apartments being built within walking distance of Dartmouth Mall**

Rockwood Apartments are building 24 luxury apartment units Coming in "Spring 2024" on Cross Rd in Dartmouth. The building is located extremely close to Target and other popular stores which will make this a very attractive destination for renters in the south coast.

Below is a Google Earth screenshot showing the apartments location. The white circle is where the apartments are being built, and the lot to the right is the plaza with Target, Dicks Sporting Goods, and other stores.



*RockwoodApartmentsma.com photo.*

The apartment will offer 2 bed 1 bath units, EV charging stations, a fitness area, an elevator, and common laundry according to the property website.

Its becoming more and more popular for developers & Investors across America to build apartments within or in close proximity to shopping plazas. Maybe this could be a possibility in Dartmouth Towne Center where the old Circuit City was?





RockwoodApartmentsma.com photo.

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# **Downtown New Bedford Bookstore Seized by Massachusetts Dept. of Revenue**

Multiple official Massachusetts Department of Revenue posters were placed in the windows of “Subtext Book Shop” located at 209 Union Street in New Bedford. According to these posters the property has been seized for nonpayment of taxes, and is now in the possession of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

This does not necessarily mean the book shop is closed forever, according to The Massachusetts Department of Revenue; A taxpayer may redeem property at any time prior to sale by paying the full amount owed which includes all expenses

incurred while preparing for the sale. Real property may be redeemed up to 180 days after the sale has taken place.

We will continue to follow this story as this is a popular book shop located in the heart of downtown New Bedford.

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# **PACE Opens a Grocery Store-Style Food Center in New Bedford**

## **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

PACE Community Food Center

Will Be Held on Tuesday, June 27, 2023

On Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at 12:30 pm, PACE will be holding a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in coordination with the Office of the Mayor of the City of New Bedford to celebrate the new PACE Community Food Center at 477 Park Street in New Bedford.

Through HUD's Community Services Block Grant, PACE was able to work in partnership with the city to purchase and fully renovate the former Andrews Dahill Post 1531 VFW to create a space where PACE could offer a more comfortable and pleasant indoor atmosphere where those in need are able to stock up on essentials. PACE received additional funding for the renovation of the building from Food Security Infrastructure Grant from the Commonwealth of MA, Greater Boston Food Bank, Harvey Windows, Rustic Fire Protection, Inc., and Southcoast Community Foundation, along with support from the Carney Family Foundation.

**About People Acting in Community Endeavors (PACE)**

PACE was incorporated as a Community Action Agency in 1982 to mobilize and utilize both public and private resources to affect the improvement of the economic and social quality of life for low-income residents of the Greater New Bedford area.

It is the mission of PACE to deliver innovative and effective services and programs to members of the Greater New Bedford Community in their pursuit of brighter futures.

PACE programs include Head Start, Child Care Works, YouthBuild New Bedford, Lead Prevention Program, Housing Opportunities Center, Fuel Assistance, Clemente Course, Free Tax Preparation, Community Food Center, and Health Access.

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## **Massachusetts Sen. Markey on vote against environmental rollbacks, social program cuts**

“Senator Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) issued the following statement today after voting against the debt deal:

“I was obligated by my commitment to our planet and to the everyday families across the Commonwealth and nation struggling to make ends meet to vote against the debt limit deal. This package will fast-track dirty fossil fuel projects at the expense of environmental justice and local communities, and will give Big Oil and Big Gas a Get Out of Jail Free card.

“This legislation will keep seniors and young families who rely on SNAP and TANF from keeping the lights on and putting

food on the table. This legislation undermines bedrock environmental law and creates major new exemptions to the environmental permitting process, which will leave local, state, and Tribal leaders vulnerable and voiceless on polluting projects in their backyards. And this legislation fails entirely to address the transmission and staffing issues that are real blockades to bringing affordable clean energy onto our grid, adding a new yearslong delay to our effort to ensure our regional electric grids are resilient and interconnected in case of emergencies. Meanwhile, Americans face higher energy costs from fossil fuel profiteering, and corporate executives get bigger bonuses.

“Republicans racked up trillions in debt under Donald Trump, giving tax breaks to corporations and billionaires, and now would rather deprive struggling families of food and financial security than ask the wealthy to pay their fair share in taxes. It’s despicable that the GOP held our economy hostage, and I could not vote for legislation that put pipelines over lifelines. We must abolish the debt ceiling to bring an end to the Republicans’ hostage-taking—for good.”

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## **OPINION: “The U.S. debt ceiling deal is not a fair agreement!”**

*The following is an opinion sent to New Bedford Guide. It does not reflect the opinion of New Bedford Guide, nor is it an OP-ED. In fairness and objectivity, we share opinions from our readers whether we agree or disagree with their opinion.*

Do you have a counter opinion to this opinion? Have an opinion

about something else? Email us at [info@newbedfordguide.com](mailto:info@newbedfordguide.com).

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“It is frequently asserted by divorce attorneys that a separation agreement that leaves both parties unhappy is a fair deal.

But that is questionable, as how does one party getting physical custody of the children measure compared to the other spouse receiving seventy percent of the marital assets and a low child support order?

When the agreement plays out and the non-custodial parent has visitation for four overnights a month, it is hardly relationship sustaining, and the custodial parent, and children, have a significantly reduced level of income how comparable is that as to its impact upon the parties when put into practice?

All too frequently divorcing parties are coerced and pressured into signing separation agreements that were redrawn and amended the very day of the divorce hearing. They are reminded that a continuing insistence on more visitation or increased support may not be ordered by the judge and they will remain in limbo indefinitely causing great uncertainty and a tremendous increase of legal fees.

And similarly legislators were presented with dire national and international consequences if the debt ceiling issue was not resolved presently, and they were provided insufficient time to absorb, digest and analyze the consequences of the fine print.

Compromised agreements have devastating effects sometimes and the only winners are the legislators who prepared, promoted and paraded their accomplishment to their constituents. And so too divorce attorneys can proudly shake hands and be thankful for a time consuming trial that has been averted.

But the reality is all too often the compromised divorce agreement and the bipartisan debt ceiling legislation have unforeseen and devastating consequences that are patently unfair, and only cause incivility and inequity in the country and to the divorced family.

Betty Ussach.”

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## **Life Sciences Center announces \$24.4 million job creation incentives for 43 Massachusetts companies**

*Incentives expected to create nearly 1,600 life sciences jobs throughout Massachusetts; Since MLSC's inception, Tax Incentive Program has helped create more than 11,000 jobs.*

“During an event at Moderna’s clinical manufacturing facility in Norwood, the Healey-Driscoll Administration and Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC) announced \$24.4 million in tax incentive awards to 43 life sciences companies. The awards, provided through the MLSC’s Tax Incentive Program, are expected to create 1,584 new life sciences industry jobs in the Commonwealth.

The MLSC Tax Incentive program is offered to companies engaged in life sciences research and development, commercialization, and manufacturing in Massachusetts, providing incentives to companies of all sizes looking to expand their efforts by creating new, long-term jobs in the state.



“Massachusetts is a global leader in the life sciences sector thanks to companies like Moderna and the dozens of others that will benefit from these tax incentive awards,” said Governor Maura Healey. “This funding will support cutting-edge research, advance the manufacturing of life-changing therapies, create thousands of jobs for companies across the state, and strengthen our position as the best place in the world to grow a life sciences company.”

“Our administration works every day to help companies start, grow, and stay here in Massachusetts,” said Economic Development Secretary Yvonne Hao, who also serves as co-chair of the MLSC Board of Directors. “We are excited to see how today’s investments help life sciences companies expand their operations across the state and are grateful to Governor Healey and Lt. Governor Driscoll for their commitment to lengthening our lead as a life sciences hub through this funding.”

Out of the 43 companies receiving tax incentive awards, 26 companies—accounting for 69 percent of the new jobs—are expanding outside of Boston and Cambridge. Since the MLSC’s reauthorization in 2018, 78 percent of jobs committed through the MLSC’s Tax Incentive program are located outside of Boston and Cambridge. Since the Center’s inception, life sciences companies expanding across Massachusetts have committed to the creation of more than 11,000 jobs through this program.

“The Life Sciences Center will continue to deploy every resource necessary to support life science companies of all sizes and sub-sectors,” said MLSC President and CEO Kenn Turner. “I am grateful for the support of the Healey Administration and legislative leaders who understand the power of public-private partnership to drive economic and workforce development. I am equally excited for the growth of our companies being celebrated today as they work to produce life-saving therapies and products for patients on a global scale.”

This year's Tax Incentive Program award recipients represent a diverse cohort of companies working on drug discovery and development, medical devices, diagnostics, and manufacturing. A full list of the the town and cities that will be recipients can be seen [here](#).

The MLSC jointly administers the Tax Incentive Program with the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR), which oversees the technical administration of the incentives. Awardees are required to maintain job commitments over a five-year period. The program includes regular reporting requirements for awardees to document jobs created as a result of the incentive. MLSC has continued to use the Tax Incentive Program to leverage diverse life sciences assets across Massachusetts and encourage growth and expansion on a statewide basis.

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### **About the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center**

*The Massachusetts Life Science Center (MLSC) is an economic development investment agency dedicated to supporting the growth and development of the life sciences in Massachusetts, home to the most verdant and productive life sciences ecosystem in the world.*

Through public-private funding initiatives, the MLSC supports innovation, research and development, commercialization, and manufacturing activities in the fields of biopharma, medical device, diagnostics and digital health. Since its creation in 2007, the MLSC has strategically deployed more than \$900 million in Massachusetts, through a combination of grants, loans, capital infrastructure investments, tax incentives and workforce programs.

These investments have created thousands of jobs and propelled the development of new therapies, devices and scientific advancements that are improving patient health and well-being

in Massachusetts and beyond.”