

Worcester Business Owner Sentenced for Defrauding Snap and Selling Counterfeit Merchandise

The owner of Esther's Fashion Paradise was sentenced yesterday in federal court in Worcester for defrauding the SNAP benefits program and selling counterfeit merchandise.

Esther Acquaye, 31, of Worcester, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Timothy S. Hillman to eight months in prison, three years of supervised release, and ordered to pay \$285,075 in restitution. In December 2017, Acquaye pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to acquire, possess, and redeem SNAP benefits in an unauthorized manner, and to convert public money; one count of SNAP fraud; and one count of trafficking in counterfeit goods.

On numerous occasions between November 2013 and April 2016, Acquaye, the owner of Esther's Fashion Paradise in Worcester, accepted EBT cards from SNAP recipients wishing to exchange their SNAP benefits for cash. Specifically, Acquaye passed the EBT cards through a point-of-sale terminal causing the full value of the SNAP benefits to be electronically transferred to her business, and then provided less than the full value of the SNAP benefits in cash to the SNAP recipients. In total, Acquaye caused approximately \$282,541 in fraudulent EBT transactions and SNAP benefits to be transacted at Esther's.

In addition, on at least four occasions between November 2015 and March 2016, Acquaye accepted an EBT card from an undercover investigator as payment for counterfeit retail goods. Acquaye sold the investigator two counterfeit Michael Kors purses, one counterfeit Gucci purse, one counterfeit The

North Face jacket, and one counterfeit Michael Kors wallet.

United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling; Bethanne M. Dinkins, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Inspector General, Office of Investigations, Northeast Region; and Michael Shea, Acting Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations in Boston, made the announcement. Assistant U.S. Attorney Michelle Dineen Jerrett of Lelling's Worcester Branch Office prosecuted the case.

Dartmouth Police Arrest Serial Shoplifter from Fall River

On Sunday, April 22, at approximately 1:00 p.m., Dartmouth Police responded to Walmart regarding a shoplifting in progress.

Upon arrival, officers located two (2) males loading numerous stolen items into a vehicle parked in the rear of the building near a fire exit.

One of the males, Jason FERREIRA, 33, of #45 Lee Street, Fall River, was well known to Dartmouth Police for previous shoplifting incidents.

As a result of the subsequent investigation, FERREIRA was arrested and charged with larceny over \$250 and conspiracy to commit a crime (to wit larceny over \$250). In addition to these charges, FERREIRA also had three (3) active arrest warrants, two (2) of which were for previous retail theft-related incidents.

HELP WANTED: City of New Bedford is hiring for Data Entry Clerk (Temp) position

PAY: \$15.23hr -\$20.61hr

Monitors and controls electronic computer to process business or other data according to operating instructions. Selects and loads input and output units with materials such as tapes or printout forms for operating runs.

Operates on-line or off-line machines according to written or oral instructions to transfer data from one form to another, print output and read data into and out of computer.

Recommends changes in programs, routines and quality control standards. Prepares for review records and reports of operating and down time; operates computers to assist in locating and overcoming error conditions.

Develops operating methods to process data; assists in the development of useful computer programs. Keypunches and edits; assists general public, office staff and City employees.

Ability to perform arithmetic computations accurately and quickly; ability to communicate effectively verbally and in writing; ability to work under pressure and/or frequent interruptions. Knowledge of personal computers and various programs.

Graduation from a high school or GED equivalent with specialized course work in computer operations.

For application/complete job description, please visit

www.newbedford-ma.gov or contact the Personnel Dept., 133 William St., Room 212, 508-979-1444. Applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate is found. EE0

New Bedford has a residency requirement.

HELP WANTED: City of New Bedford is seeking to fill a Police Cadet vacancy

PAY: \$11.00hr – \$13.09hr

Assists Police Officers with administrative duties.

Maintains and files records, operates office machines, answers telephones, receives complaints, enters and indexes official documents, prepares routine reports, prepares and tabulates facts and figures for statistical purposes, and performs similar duties of an administrative rather than an enforcement types.

Shall not carry arms, nor shall he/she have any power of arrest other than that of an ordinary citizen.

Must be a New Bedford resident for the duration of employment. Cadet must be (eighteen) 18 years old. Employment is terminated on the Cadet's 25th birthday.

High school graduate or GED equivalent. Possession of a valid Massachusetts driver's license and good driving record.

Must be willing to work nights, weekends and holidays.

For application/complete job description, please visit

www.newbedford-ma.gov or contact the Personnel Dept., 133 William St., Room 212, 508-979-1444. Applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate is found. EEO

New Bedford has a residency requirement.

New Bedford Man Sentenced for Federal Drug Crime

A New Bedford man was sentenced today in federal court in Boston for aiding and abetting the distribution of methamphetamine.

Alexander Gomes, 27, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Denise J. Casper to 22 months in prison and three years of supervised release. In December 2017, Gomes pleaded guilty to one count of aiding and abetting the distribution of methamphetamine.

On Dec. 12, 2016, Gomes accompanied co-defendant Peter Lobo to a meeting in Revere with an undercover agent posing as a Maine methamphetamine dealer. At that meeting, Lobo distributed a half pound sample of methamphetamine to the agent. Lobo then introduced Gomes, and explained that the undercover agent could meet with Gomes in the future if Lobo was out of town. Two days later, Gomes again accompanied Lobo to Revere, where Lobo received payment from the agent of \$4,000 for the half pound, and distributed an additional four pounds of methamphetamine to the agent. Lobo and Gomes were arrested shortly after they began to drive away. At the time of their arrest, Lobo had \$3,000 in his pocket and Gomes had \$1,000 hidden in his sock. Subsequent drug analysis determined that the substance consisted of approximately 1,777 grams of 99%

pure d-methamphetamine hydrochloride, also known as “Ice.”

Lobo pleaded guilty to distributing methamphetamine; on Nov. 29, 2017, he was sentenced to five years in prison.

United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling and Albert Angelucci, Acting Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration, New England Field Office, made the announcement today. Assistant U.S. Attorney Theodore B. Heinrich of Lelling’s Narcotics and Money Laundering Unit prosecuted the case.

New Bedford woman released without bail despite history of skipping court dates

A New Bedford woman was released in New Bedford District Court without having to post bail Monday, April 23, despite a history of ignoring court dates and being arrested twice two months ago in a two-day period.

Sky-Lynn Ellis, 23, of 53 North St. Apt. 2, New Bedford, faced Judge John P. Stapleton Monday after being arrested in a vehicle at Brooklawn Park in the middle of the night. She was charged with trespassing and on two warrants.

Judge Stapleton released her without her having to post any bail despite her previous two arrests in February and her failure to appear in court for other charges.

On Feb. 14, she was arrested and charged with unarmed robbery, trespassing and assault and battery at a property at 149 Tinkham St. Upon her arraignment on these charges in New

Bedford District Court, she was released without having to post bail.

On the next day, February 15, she was again arrested, this time for prostitution. She was released again without bail on that charge despite the previous arrest a day earlier.

At the time of her arrest Monday, April 23, she had two outstanding warrants from previous cases. She is out again without having to post bail and her next court date is June 27.

New Bedford Woman who missed court dates 36 times arrested for heroin trafficking

New Bedford Police Narcotics Unit took more than 20 grams of heroin off the streets Tuesday, April 24 during an investigation into street level narcotics sales in the south end.

During their investigation, police observed Sarah Gada, 37, of 75 Ellen St. Apt. 2E, New Bedford, who was known to have outstanding warrants.

When she was being taken into custody, she displayed behavior consistent with concealing narcotics. Further investigation found more than 20 grams of heroin, about four grams of cocaine, a digital scale, packaging materials and more than \$1,500 in cash in her possession.

She was arrested on charges of trafficking in heroin, possession of cocaine with intent to distribute and on seven

warrants.

She failed to appear in New Bedford District Court Nov. 8, 2017 to face seven charges, including possession of class B substance with intent to distribute and conspiracy to violate controlled substance act. A warrant was subsequently issued for her arrest.

Gada has failed to appear in court 36 times in her criminal history.

She was held without bail Wednesday, April 25 by Judge James McGovern pending a dangerousness hearing May 1.

Now Hiring! Teufelberger Fiber Rope Corp. is hiring in Fall River & Greater New Bedford

Teufelberger Fiber Rope Corp. is an ISO 9001:2008 certified manufacturer of high quality specialty cordage products with over 225 years of history. We manufacture and distribute custom rope products to industries servicing marine, recreational climbing, industrial, safety & rescue, and entertainment markets. We are based in Fall River, MA; and employ over 175 associates to support our operations. We are a subsidiary to our parent company, Teufelberger, located in Wels, Austria.



We are currently looking for employees to fill the following roles:

- *Machine Operator positions
- *Planner & Inventory Analyst
- *Warehouse
- *Industrial Mechanic (Machinist)
- *Sales Management

All shifts are currently for machine operator roles

This is for full time year round work located inside of the Fall River Industrial Park.

Medical/Dental/Vision/401K package is offered

Please send resume to: HR_recruit@teufelberger.com

Please join us for a Open House hiring event Wednesday 5/2/18 from 3p-6p We will be conducting walk in interviews for various machine operator roles for all shifts. No appointment will be needed

Or fill out an application in person

Teufelberger Fiber Rope Corp

848 Airport Rd Fall River MA

Check out our website: <https://www.teufelberger.com>



Our company is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity for all employees and qualified applicants without regard to race, color, religious creed, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity, age, disability, veteran's status, marital status, citizenship status or sexual orientation.

One person stabbed at Neds Point lighthouse in Mattapoissett

At approximately 4pm on Tuesday, April 24 the Mattapoissett Police received a report of a party that had been stabbed at the Neds Point lighthouse. Officers from the Mattapoissett Police Department located the victim who was transported to Rhode Island Hospital by EMS. The victim is in stable condition.

The initial investigation revealed that this is an isolated incident and both the suspect and victim were known to each other, therefore there is no threat to the public. The case is

ongoing and all names are being withheld at this time. The case is being investigated by the Mattapoisett Police Department.

Anyone with information please contact The Mattapoisett Detective Division at 508-758-4145.

New Bedford plans street sweeping program for May and June; August and September

The Department of Public Infrastructure will conduct a major street sweeping program in the city and will run from May through September (excluding July), including a parking ban on designate sides of the street as listed below. The program will run in the north end of the city in the months of May and August. The second section of the program, the city's south end, will run in the months of June and September.

Street sweeping will occur on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

No parking signs will be posted on those days and will apply similar to snow-related parking bans.

The south and west sides of the streets will be cleaned on Wednesdays. The north and east sides of the streets will be cleaned on Thursdays.

NORTH END: May and August

The street sweeping area is bordered by Belleville Avenue, Coggeshall Street, Ashley Boulevard, and Deane Street, including all streets in between. Therefore, roadways to be

swept include Bullard Street, Nye Street, Tallman Street, Holly Street, Sawyer Street, Beetle Street, Beetle Court, Bonneau Court, North Front Street, and Acushnet Avenue.

SOUTH END: June and September

The street sweeping area is bordered by Cove Street, East Rodney French Boulevard, a portion of West Rodney French Boulevard, Brock Avenue and David Street. Roadways to be swept include Abbott, Cleveland, Roosevelt, Ashley, Salisbury, Ruth, Viall, McGurk, Harmony, Social and Welcome streets.

Failure to follow the posted street sweeping signs will result in vehicles being towed. During this time frame, parking will be prohibited within the posted areas to allow sweepers full access to the curb line. These focused areas of sweeping are in addition to the regular weekly schedule of street sweeping on the City's main thoroughfares. Anyone with questions may contact James Costa of the Department of Public Infrastructure at 508-979-1550 ext. 67344.