

HELP WANTED: City of New Bedford is seeking to fill Sewage Maintenance Person position

PAY: \$13.78hr – \$19.91/hr

Performs the inspection, overhaul, repair, testing, maintenance and operation of a wide variety of mechanical and electrical equipment. Performs maintenance and preventive maintenance procedures within the collection system and all related facilities. Recommends and implements improvements and modifications to machinery and equipment. Performs tasks requiring some specialized skill or knowledge relating to the maintenance or operations of the treatment plant and related facilities. Works in accordance with established City work rules and safety practices.

Graduation from a high school or GED equivalent preferred. Participation in State-approved mechanical apprentice program preferred. Must be capable of obtaining a Massachusetts Collections System Certification within six months from the date of hire. Possession of a valid Massachusetts driver's license and good driving record. Mandatory CORI (Criminal Offender Record Investigation) background check per City Council Ordinance effective May 14, 2013.

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. New Bedford has a residency requirement. EE0

City selects area native Margo Saulnier to oversee New Bedford's Cultural Plan

New Bedford has selected area native Margo Saulnier to serve as the Cultural Coordinator for the city's arts and culture community, overseeing the development and implementation of New Bedford's Cultural Plan.

In recent years, New Bedford's reputation has grown as the center for arts in the region and as a creative and inviting place for all types of artists to live and work. New Bedford was named the "Seventh Most Artistic City" by Atlantic Monthly, ranked Ninth on Matador Network's list of Most Creative Towns, and sixth on Bustle's Best Cities for Young Artists.

The Arts, Culture and Tourism Fund was proposed by Mayor Jon Mitchell in the spring of 2016 and approved by the City Council last year, and consists of half the revenue from the city's lodging tax, capped at a total of \$100,000. Creation of the fund also required the passage of a home rule petition by the state legislature. The petition's passage in 2017 was led by state Sen. Mark Montigny.

Using monies from the Arts, Culture and Tourism Fund, the City selected the New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC) to manage the search for the Cultural Coordinator. Over the summer, the NBEDC conducted a search for a Cultural Coordinator, and after receiving and reviewing applications and conducting interviews, area native Margo Saulnier was selected.

An Acushnet native and New Bedford High School graduate, Margo Saulnier is an experienced creative professional and educator with more than two decades of performing arts and entertainment industry experience. She has consulted on a number of projects in Boston with Celebrity Series of Boston, including three large-scale public outdoor projects: Street Pianos Boston “Play Me I’m Yours” (2013 and 2016), “Le Grand Continental” dance performance in Copley Square (2014), and “Let’s Dance/Bailemos Boston!” (2015) on the Rose Kennedy Greenway. She has managed production and programming for more than 4,000 live shows at the Boston Pops and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

Ms. Saulnier is currently a lecturer in the Music Department at Northeastern University’s College of Arts, Media, and Design, focusing primarily on management of music organizations, performing arts administration, and a course she created, Artistic Planning for Venues and Festivals. In 2016, she moderated the panel on women in music management, booking, negotiations and technology for Northeastern’s “Changing the Conversation: Women’s Equality in the Music Industry” Symposium. In 2014, she moderated the arts economics panel for Northeastern’s CREATE Initiative’s Value of Presenting Symposium. She has also participated on panels at the Future of Music Summit, Association of Performing Arts Presenters (APAP), and Boston University.

For more than a decade, Ms. Saulnier was involved in artistic planning for the Boston Pops, where she produced the orchestral debuts of Steve Martin, Oleta Adams, Robert De Niro, Morgan Freeman, Cowboy Junkies, Melinda Doolittle, Guster, Aimee Mann, Natalie Merchant, My Morning Jacket, Amanda Palmer, Ozomatli, and many others.

She holds a degree in music from Boston University and a master of fine arts degree from Brooklyn College.

“The arts have been an important part of New Bedford’s story,

dating back to its whaling days. The Cultural Plan will add to our cultural scene, attracting creativity and investment to the City and improving marketing, programming, and public art,” said Mayor Jon Mitchell. “I’m pleased that a highly qualified, driven professional, Margo Saulnier, will oversee the plan with both vision and passion to see the best results for New Bedford’s respected arts and culture community.”

“Margo is committed to innovative and interdisciplinary programming, new audience development, community engagement, and making arts accessible to all,” said Derek Santos, executive director of the New Bedford Economic Development Council.

New Bedford Police welcome three new officers

The New Bedford Police Department welcomed three new officers Monday, Nov. 20, at a swearing-in ceremony at City Hall.

Officers Drew Frenette, Andrew Parker and Stephen Tomasia were sworn in by City Clerk Dennis Farias.

Mayor Jon Mitchell, City Councilor Kerry Winterson, Police Chief Joseph Cordeiro and Lt. Ricard Rezendes were on hand to welcome the city’s three newest officers.

The three new officers graduated Wednesday, Nov. 15, from the 64th Recruit Officers Course at Plymouth Police Academy. They were officially sworn in Monday.

At Monday’s ceremony, Mayor Jon Mitchell welcomed the new officers to a department that is highly respected among the

public and the law enforcement community.

"The job you are about to embark on is a really important one," the mayor told them.

"Being a police officer means being there when people need you most. When people are in peril, whether perceived or very real, it's the police they turn to."

Police officers tackle many different roles, he said, including keepers of the peace, marriage counselors and inspiration for children. "We ask a lot of officers," Mayor Mitchell said.

Councilor Winterson reminded the officers of the importance of making a good first impression as they make their way through the city. "That first impression you make is going to be a building block" toward a successful career, he said.

Police Chief Joseph Cordeiro congratulated the new officers for making it through a rigorous process, including background checks and police recruit training, that results in their wearing the New Bedford Police Department badge.

The new officers are empowered with "a lot of responsibility, a lot of authority," Chief Cordeiro said. He urged the new officers to "treat people the way you would want your family to be treated."

He told the new officers they are joining a family that will watch out for them as they watch out for their fellow officers and the community. "We take good care of each other," Chief Cordeiro said. "This is a team effort. Nobody can do this alone."

"This job is about building relationships," Chief Cordeiro said. "Put a smile on your face and walk proud, you are a New Bedford Police officer."

Officer Frenette is a lifelong resident of New Bedford. He

graduated from Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School in 2011 and a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Endicott College in 2015.

He is a second-generation member of the department: His father, Ronald E. Frenette, served as a New Bedford Police officer from 1985 to 1992. "I always liked the image of police officers and how they hold themselves," he said.

Officer Parker was born and raised in New Bedford. He graduated from New Bedford High School on 2003. He said he chose to become a New Bedford police officer because of the importance of the job within the community.

"I like helping people," he said.

Officer Tomasio was born in New Bedford but later moved to Fairhaven, where he graduated from Fairhaven High School. He later earned an associate's degree in criminal justice from Bristol Community College and a bachelor's degree from Bridgewater State University in 2003.

He lives in New Bedford and spent several years working at a Department of Youth Services lock-up facility before deciding to become a New Bedford police officer. His ultimate goal, he said, was to work in law enforcement and his life experience, particularly in working with people, will be an asset.

The three new officers graduated Wednesday, Nov. 15 from the 64th Recruit Officers Course at Plymouth Police Academy.

New Bedford Man Who Opened

Fire in Residential Neighborhood Sentenced to Prison

A 25-year-old New Bedford man who opened fire in a residential neighborhood early this year was sentenced to serve seven years in state prison last week, District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced.

Jose Osorio pleaded guilty last week in fall River Superior Court to a multi-count indictment charging him with two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, two counts of attempted assault and battery by a firearm, two counts of carrying an illegal firearm and two counts of carrying a loaded illegal firearm.

On January 4th at 10:15 am, ShotSpotter alerted New Bedford Police to a shooting at 297 Coffin Avenue. Six shots were fired, apparently in the rear of that address. Bullet holes were found in the door of one of the multi-unit garages and in the siding of the house at 293 Coffin Avenue. These two addresses share a driveway, which is used to access the garages in the back.

Police found a car near the garages, which had a license plate that was painted over. In plain view, officers saw ammunition on the passenger seat. No casings were found at the scene, leading police to believe the weapon was a revolver. Witnesses had heard shots and saw people running out of the driveway towards Coffin Street. Surveillance showed a male attaching the license plate to the car, and then spray painting it. He then sat in the vehicle until he got out armed with a handgun. Other cameras showed two males walking up the driveway from the street, and the male in the car firing at them. The two males fled.

After obtaining a search warrant, police recovered seven .357 rounds and an ID for the defendant from the car. He was later positively identified from surveillance photos.

On January 5 at around 3:30 pm New Bedford Police Gang Unit detectives spotted the defendant on a bicycle. After a brief chase, police saw the defendant flee into the rear yard behind some buildings on Acushnet Avenue. The defendant tried to climb a fence, but eventually surrendered. He had six .357 rounds in his pocket at the time of his arrest. Police also found a loaded .357 revolver in some leaves near where the defendant was apprehended. The defendant admitted to being involved in the shooting the day before.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Stephen "Chuck" Nadeau and the sentence was handed down by Judge Thomas McGuire.

"This is a defendant with a violent history who continues to commit violent acts that endanger the safety of the citizens of New Bedford and other cities," said District Attorney Quinn. "He is a danger to the public and he needed to be locked up for a long time."

Councillor Coelho pushing to remove "well known vagrant" from Coffin Ave. Post Office

The following motion is scheduled for discussion at the New Bedford City Council session on 21 November, 2017:

9. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Coelho, requesting, that

immediate action be taken to remove the well known vagrant from his current position on the sidewalk by the Post Office at 282 Coffin Avenue, he sleeps, loiters, litters and harasses people who attempt to use this Federal building or the sidewalk, he has become a public nuisance. (To be Referred to the Mayor's Office, the Chief of Police and the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods.) (To be Ratified by the City Council.)

Councilor Martins pushing Facebook to transfer deceased member accounts to spouses/partners

The following motion is scheduled for discussion at the New Bedford City Council session on 21 November, 2017:

8. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Martins, in support of Rosemary Heath, who lost her husband George in the 2016 Taunton Mall rampage, requesting that the New Bedford City Council send a letter of support to Facebook to change their legacy option, the current policy states that if a user is not named on your social media page after you pass, the page becomes locked, even for the spouse/partner, that people like Rosemary Heath have every intention to keep his memory alive through his Facebook page, sharing memories and pictures with his friends and family; and further, that Facebook not granting her access to her own husband's page is an issue that is faced all around the world where the person you are committed to for life has no control of the social media page when you pass;

furthermore, Facebook should allow for not only her, but for others to be the default legacy person and should notify them if someone is attempting to memorialize the account. (To be Ratified by the City Council.)

New Bedford City Council considering Seattle's panhandling code

The following motion is scheduled for discussion at the New Bedford City Council session on 21 November, 2017:

7. WRITTEN MOTION, Council President Lopes, Councillors Winterson and Abreu, requesting that the Committee on Ordinances, draft an Ordinance similar to the Seattle's Municipal Code 12A.12.015 (B) (1) that establishes penalties for intentionally obstructing or interfering with pedestrian or vehicle traffic as a means of addressing panhandling.

Here is the text of Seattle's Municipal Code 12A.12.015:

12A.12.015 Pedestrian interference.

Seattle Municipal Code

A. The following definitions apply in this section:

1. "Aggressively beg" means to beg with the intent to intimidate another person into giving money or goods.

2. "Intimidate" means to engage in conduct which would make a reasonable person fearful or feel compelled.

3. "Beg" means to ask for money or goods as a charity, whether by words, bodily gestures, signs, or other means.

4. "Obstruct pedestrian or vehicular traffic" means to walk, stand, sit, lie, or place an object in such a manner as to block passage by another person or a vehicle, or to require another person or a driver of a vehicle to take evasive action to avoid physical contact. Acts authorized as an exercise of one's constitutional right to picket or to legally protest, and acts authorized by a permit issued pursuant to the Street Use Ordinance, Chapters 15.02 through 15.50 of the Seattle Municipal Code, shall not constitute obstruction of pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

5. "Public place" means an area generally visible to public view and includes alleys, bridges, buildings, driveways, parking lots, parks, plazas, sidewalks and streets open to the general public, including those that serve food or drink or provide entertainment, and the doorways and entrances to buildings or dwellings and the grounds enclosing them.

B. A person is guilty of pedestrian interference if, in a public place, he or she intentionally:

1. Obstructs pedestrian or vehicular traffic; or
2. Aggressively begs.

C. Pedestrian interference is a misdemeanor.

(Ord. 117104 § 1, 1994: Ord. 116897 § 1, 1993: Ord. 113697 § 1, 1987.)

Cases: Subsection B 1 was upheld as constitutional in a challenge based on breadth and vagueness and does not deny equal protection of the laws. *Seattle v. Webster*, 115 Wn.2d 635, 802 P.2d 1333 (1990).

Five New Bedford City Councilors push for online police reporting system

The following motion is scheduled for discussion at the New Bedford City Council session on 21 November, 2017:

6. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Abreu, Council President Lopes, Councillors Dunn, Coelho and Winterson, requesting that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods, Police Chief Cordeiro, and the Administration discuss the feasibility of implementing an online police reporting system for our residents and visitors to use as a means to report non-violent crimes, as such, the Cities of Providence and Cranston, Rhode Island have both launched this service this past year, and have claimed to have reduced officer response time by about 10 to 30 percent, and will provide online access to citizens 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. (To be Referred to the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods, Police Chief Joseph Cordeiro, CFO Ari Sky, and a representative of Mayor Mitchell's Office.)

**Former Lawrence Police
Officer Sentenced on**

Attempted Extortion Charges

A former Lawrence Police Officer was sentenced Friday in federal court in Boston in connection with attempting to use his position as a police officer to extort cocaine from a drug trafficker.

John R. Desantis Jr., 45, of Methuen, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge F. Dennis Saylor IV to 18 months in prison and two years of supervised release. In August 2017, Desantis agreed to plead guilty to one count of extortion and attempted extortion under color of official right and through the use of threatened force and fear.

Desantis had been purchasing small amounts of cocaine once or twice a week from a drug trafficker for 10-12 months without identifying himself as a police officer. On May 16, 2016, during a drug transaction at his home, Desantis displayed his gun and badge, seized the cocaine and threatened to arrest the drug trafficker if he did not continue to supply him with drugs. Desantis thereafter continued to communicate with the drug trafficker through text messages, telling him, "you will not be arrested at all if you do as I tell you to."

Massachusetts bank teller sentenced for embezzlement of \$172,551

A Dorchester woman was sentenced Friday in federal court in Boston for embezzling \$172,551 from a customer of the Mattapan bank at which she was a teller.

J'Cynda Sales, 22, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Douglas P. Woodlock to time served, five years of supervised release, restitution of \$172,551 and forfeiture of \$172,551. In June 2017, she pleaded guilty to embezzlement by a bank employee. Between November 2015 and May 2016, Sales made 48 unauthorized withdrawals from the bank account of a customer totaling \$172,551.