

# Crash in Montgomery leaves motorcycle passenger dead

Last evening at approximately 6:25 p.m., troopers from the State Police – Russell Barracks responded to reports of a crash on Main Road in Montgomery.

Upon arrival, troopers discovered that a 2013 Harley Davidson was traveling Eastbound on Main Road in Montgomery near 414 Main Road, when for reasons still under investigation, while turning on a curve, lost control of the motorcycle. The motorcycle laid down on its side, causing the passenger of the motorcycle, Sabrina Haraty, 23, of Thorndike, to slide across the Westbound lane into oncoming traffic.

Ms. Haraty was struck by a 2016 Hyundai Tuscon. Ms. Haraty was determined to be deceased on scene, as a result of injuries sustained in the crash. The motorcycle operator, a 25-year-old man from Westfield, sustained serious injuries and was transported to Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

The three occupants of the Hyundai, all from Williamsburg, were not injured.

Main Road was closed to traffic during the crash and crash reconstruction until approximately 10:40 p.m.

The remaining facts and circumstances remain under investigation by troopers assigned to the State Police Russell Barracks, Troop B Headquarters, State Police Detective Unit assigned to Hampden County District Attorney's Office, State Police Crime Scene Services Section (CSSS), State Police Collision Analysis Reconstruction Section (CARS), and the Massachusetts Office of the Chief Medical Examiner all assisted on scene.

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# **Boston Police arrest man after he drives scooter through active crime scene and striking officer in Dorchester**

At about 10:26 PM on Saturday, June 13, 2020, officers made an onsite arrest in the area of 861 Washington Street in Dorchester. While guarding a crime scene in the area of the aforementioned location from a prior incident in which an adult male was transported to the hospital as a result of suffering an apparent non-life-threatening gunshot wound, officers observed a male driving a moped scooter at an accelerated rate of speed.

The male continued toward the active crime scene which extended from Ogden Street to Fuller Street. Marked by multiple rows of neon yellow crime scene tape as well as several police cruisers with their blue lights activated, the scene was completely illuminated to onlookers and passersby. Officers observed the male on the moped, traveling at a high rate of speed, driving directly past a police car with its lights on, and straight through the crime scene tape towards the scene which was being processed by detectives.

Multiple officers within and surrounding the scene, protecting the integrity of the evidence, shouted for the male to stop, but he refused and continued directly into the crime scene. The male continued on through additional layers of crime scene tape before he crashed into an officer, lifting him off of the

ground causing injury.

The suspect fell off of the moped and fled the scene on foot. Officers gave chase and caught up to the suspect in the area of 19 Mora Street where a brief, but violent struggle ensued before officers placed him in custody. The officer who was struck by the suspect was transported to a local hospital where he was treated for non-life-threatening injuries and later released.

Officers arrested Giraldy Guerrero, 19-years-old, of Braintree. Guerrero is expected to be arraigned in Dorchester District Court on charges of Assault and Battery by means of a Dangerous Weapon, Assault and Battery on a Police Officer, Leaving the Scene of an Accident Resulting in Personal Injury, Resisting Arrest, Trespassing, Reckless Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Interfering with a Police Officer, and Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

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## **Massachusetts State Troopers arrest Outlaw Motorcycle Member in Brockton**

Massachusetts State Troopers on Friday evening seized an unlawfully-carried firearm and arrested a suspected member of the motorcycle club known as the Outlaws.

At about 6:15 p.m., troopers assigned to the Massachusetts State Police Troop D Community Action Team observed two motorcycles traveling much faster than the posted speed limit of 40 miles per hour on West Chestnut Street in the city of Brockton. Their estimated speed was near 70 miles per hour.

As troopers activated their emergency lights in an attempt to stop the motorcycles one of them fled at a high rate of speed toward West Bridgewater. A short time later, troopers located the motorcycle and its operator, identified as KENNETH MCDONALD, 58 of Whitman on Manley Street in West Bridgewater.

As a result of an investigation, a BERSA SA .45 firearm fully loaded with 7 rounds, including one in the chamber was located on MCDONALD's person. MCDONALD does not legally possess a license to carry a firearm in Massachusetts.

MCDONALD was placed under arrest and transported to the State Police Middleboro Barracks and charged with the following offenses:

1. Carrying/possessing of a Firearm without a license;
2. Carrying a loaded firearm and firearm violation with 2nd Offense; and issued a citation warning for speeding.

MCDONALD was bailed on \$500.00 and will be arraigned Monday in Brockton District Court.

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## **DeLeo, Spilka attach immediacy to policing, justice bill**

Chris Van Buskirk and Michael P. Norton  
State House News Service

House Speaker Robert DeLeo plans to create an "omnibus" piece of legislation before Aug. 1 that's likely to address policing and other equity issues, he said Wednesday as Gov. Charlie Baker made it clear he does not support defunding police

budgets.

Speaking to reporters hours before meeting virtually with the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus Wednesday, DeLeo described the potential legislation that he pledged to develop on Friday when he said the House would take “decisive action” against structural racism. The caucus outlined a 10-point plan last week addressing police brutality and structural racism that DeLeo said is an important starting point for discussions.

“There’s no pre-arranged agenda so to speak. But I think a lot of the items probably which are part of the 10-point plan will probably be the subject of discussion,” he said. “Can we do a better job in terms of the economy, in terms of making sure that you know, minorities are better represented, have more opportunity for economic advancement?”

With formal sessions scheduled to end for 2020 on July 31, DeLeo said he hoped to work with the Senate to get a bill to Gov. Baker’s desk by that time.

Later Wednesday, Senate President Karen Spilka announced the creation of a Senate advisory group on racial justice chaired by Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz, a member of the Black and Latino Legislative Caucus, and Sen. William Brownsberger. The group, which is tasked with reviewing existing legislation and recommending further policies to address systemic racism, met for the first time Wednesday, Spilka said.

“I believe we have reached a history-making moment in our Commonwealth and that it should not pass without taking action on policing and racial justice this session,” the Ashland Democrat said in a statement in which she described herself as “the driving force” behind the promised action.

After swearing in two new representatives, Carol Doherty and Dan Sena, Gov. Charlie Baker said Wednesday that he has been working with the House and Senate, but said he does not

support defunding the police, the phrase attached to a movement to redirect public funds assigned to police to other areas of government to benefit minority communities.

“I am reasonably optimistic that they’ll do something at some point that relates to state and local government, but I don’t believe in slogans as a general rule, and I certainly don’t support the whole concept that we should get out of the business of providing public safety to our communities,” he said. “I don’t support defunding the police.”

After talking with members of the Black and Latino Legislative Caucus last Thursday, Baker said Friday that he expects to provide additional details this week on specific proposals to “dramatically improve transparency in law enforcement.”

Baker also filed legislation back in January to reform the State Police by allowing for the superintendent to be hired from outside the department, to make it easier to suspend troopers without pay after they’ve been charged with misconduct, and to create a cadet program that will improve recruitment of candidates from diverse backgrounds. That bill (S 2469) had a hearing in February, and is currently before the full Senate after the deadline for the Committee on Public Safety to make a recommendation passed without action on May 1, according to the bill history on the Legislature’s website.

As for reallocating money budgeted for the State Police, DeLeo said it was “premature” to talk about any type of funding as budget talks are still in early stages. House leaders have three weeks left before the deadline to offer a delayed fiscal 2021 spending plan.

“Although we’ve been dealing with preparing a budget, I think we still have a lot more serious to talk about. I’ve heard the word defunding on a number of occasions. And to be very honest with you, that word defunding means a lot of different things to a lot of different people,” he said. “I can tell you that

I've been having trouble getting my hands around it in terms of what exactly we are discussing."

House leaders this week announced support for a bill that would create a commission to study racial disparities in maternal mortality. The Committee on Health Care Financing advanced the bill Monday, sending it to the House Ways and Means Committee.

The killing of George Floyd, a Black man, while in the custody of a white Minneapolis police officer on May 25, has sparked nationwide protests calling on local, state, and federal officials to address structural racism and police brutality. In Massachusetts, protests remain largely peaceful and often number in the hundreds – several have drawn thousands to the streets of Boston.

Police reform must be part of the answer to protests over racism and police misconduct, Boston Mayor Martin Walsh said Wednesday, but solutions are also needed in other major public policy priority areas.

"My focus is on creating a conversation that can be sustained and lead to permanent solutions and systemic change," Walsh said. "In the past what we've seen is conversations and when the demonstrations stop, the conversation stops. And that's not what we're going to do here in the city of Boston."

During a press conference outside City Hall, Walsh said solutions must go beyond the police and extend to areas like housing, education, economic opportunity and equity in public health.

"Equity is the message of this movement and equity is our top priority," Walsh said. "We want people with heightened risk of any kind, whether due to long-term inequalities, or recent events, to be able to get tested, stay healthy and keep working and moving forward."

Reporters asked Walsh about the possibility of reallocating funds dedicated to city police.

“I can’t get specific right now, because we’re in the process right now of reworking the budget,” the mayor said, noting he planned to meet later Wednesday with city police and budget officials. He said that during his tenure he has made progress on police training, diversity and de-escalation tactics.

“The police department has to evolve and address these issues,” Walsh said. “And I think that, in light of Mr. Floyd’s murder, I think it really puts a real urgency to have even a deeper look at our practices and how we handle ourselves, on what reviews look like.”

Complaints against police officers since 2013 are down 41 percent, Walsh said, while complaints about excessive use of force in the city are down 50 percent and arrests are down 10 percent over the last seven years.

“That’s all good numbers, but that doesn’t mean that we’re perfect by any stretch of the imagination,” he said.

Walsh plans to submit a revised city budget next week, reflecting feedback from the City Council, and said the city is looking at a revenue reduction of \$65 million to \$80 million associated with COVID-19 impacts.

“We’re not laying off in the city. I can say that right now,” Walsh said. He later added, “I won’t be laying any public safety off. I hope I don’t have to.”

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# **New Bedford High School Evening Extension Class of 2020 celebrate with curbside commencement**

New Bedford High School Evening Extension celebrated its 57th annual commencement and first Virtual Graduation on Thursday evening, June 10. Eighty-four graduates received their credentials in a curbside ceremony held in the circular drive of New Bedford High School's main entrance. Graduates queued up along Hathaway Boulevard in their decorated vehicles to pick up their hard-earned diplomas from a receiving party of faculty, district and city officials.

Observing social distancing guidelines, enthusiastic graduates with face masks arrived at assigned intervals and remained in their vehicles to receive diplomas and certificates as their teachers and staff cheered them on with signs, balloons, waves and thumbs-up at the festive outdoor ceremony. Graduates hailed from New Bedford, Acushnet, Canton, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Fall River and Flushing, New York.

The NBHS Evening Extension Virtual Graduation Ceremony will air on June 11 on the New Bedford Public Schools Adult Education webpage: [adulthood.newbedfordschools.org](http://adulthood.newbedfordschools.org)

Thomas Anderson, Superintendent of New Bedford Public Schools congratulated the graduates, noting this "unique time in our lives has truly tested your perseverance and will power. I am proud that you stuck with it – and this diploma is a collective achievement for you, your family and those closest to you. Set your goals and pursue them with passion and the desire to make a difference in this world. Now more than ever your voice and strategic focus is needed to cultivate the

change and create a more equitable society that benefits all people. When we prepare ourselves, like you have, and have passion for what we are doing, there are no limits on what each of you can achieve.”

Rosemary Wilde, Principal of NBHS Evening Extension noted the day “marks a new beginning, a steppingstone on the journey to new dreams and accomplishments. Today, this class will begin a new life on the road to fulfill new goals in a world of ‘new normals.’ Despite the obstacles during the pandemic, graduates, you demonstrated that you are ready to overcome roadblocks encountered along your journey. You’ve proven that you are prepared to alter your course to reach your destination and the attainment of future hopes and dreams.”

Salutatorian Andrea Fernandes in her address to classmates recalled how her son inspired her in achieving her diploma. “I started thinking about going back to school when my son started school. I remember helping him with his homework and constantly reminding him of just how important school was for him. That’s when I started questioning myself. How can I sit here and tell my son that school is so important and that he needs to stay in school when I did not? Last year, I sat down and told him that I did not finish school. I explained that I was going back to high school to earn my diploma, and then going to college to earn my degree. He was not only my motivation, but my inspiration as well. I did this for myself, but also to show my son just how important school really is. I am proud of myself for making it here tonight. It was not easy, but I did it. This accomplishment of mine consisted of going to class right after long 8-hour workdays, just like many of my classmates. I stand here tonight hoping to serve as an example that anyone can do it. It is never too late.”

Several members of the Class of 2020 shared their thoughts on graduating. Dandan Zhang noted his diploma will allow him “to fulfill my dream of attending college.” Aarron Barbosa expressed appreciation of the second chance provided by the

NBHS Evening Extension program. "Thank you for providing me the opportunity to go back and erase a part of my life that was always a regret of mine." Of the program Larissa Hansen said, "It was an amazing experience – all of the students encouraged and supported each other."

Principal Wilde concluded by summing up the achievement of the Class of 2020. "In the face of the challenges, our graduates succeeded to fulfill their goal as they were required to change overnight from face-to-face classes to remote and online learning and communications systems. They stepped up their game and are now celebrating this victory."

#### New Bedford

Diploma: Josue Acosta, Darwin Alvarez, Laray N. Amado, Benjamin David Amaral, Cerinea Andrade, Kineisha Michelle Arce, Cameron R. Batista, Jackson J. Berry, Kaileigh Elizabeth Blessing, Madison Taylor Rae Bozzi, Alicia Cardoso, Daysha Le DeFreitas, Amaya Lynn Dejesus, Olguimarie DejesusDelgado, Kelsey Shannon Mariah Deschenes, Michael DeSouza, Lamina Faye Durarte, Shayn T. Elgar, Andrea Marie Fernandes, Dennisse E. Garcia, Amanda Garcia Coj, Kenny Joel Gonzalez, Zakya D'Shae Grace, Reed S. Gustafson, Larissa Mariah Hansen, Devin John Heroux, Darrell J. Holmes, Elaudiz Johan Jimenez, Kyla Lyn Johnson, Joshua Julian Koloba, Ashley Lacen Osorio, Armando Martinez, Zachary Ty Medeiros, Mariah Mercedes Mejia-Maalouf, Bouchra Msatfi, Darlene Mujica-Carrasquillo, Kayce Carol Nooth, Alicia Oliver, Carlos C. Reis, Moises Antonio Renderos Melendez, Iraine S. Rivas, Ava Victoria Rodriguez, Derek Santiago-Ortiz, Catia Milene Silva, Kevin Simas, Candace Marie Sylvia, Ricardo Jorge Tiniguar, Yukizia Torres, Angellis Marie Vazquez, Marissa Lynn Vieira, Tracy L. Walker, Alexander Amaral Wasilewski, Avis Williams, GladysLee Ranell Williams, Trinity Vieira, Jun Xiang Zhang.

Certificate: Dylan Bigos

#### Acushnet

Diploma: Vanessa Cahoon, Guilan Dong, Sofia Adelaide Harney,

Ava Victoria Rodriguez.

Canton

Diploma: Aarron Barbosa

Dartmouth

Diploma: Felicia DeMoranville, Matthew Ryan Magan, Mitchell Clayson Noble, Sabrina Elisabeth Skeffington.

Fairhaven

Diploma: Liping Lin, Emily Jade Murphy, Harley Dee Oliveira.

Fall River

Diploma: Jason Lee

Flushing, NY

Diploma: Dandan Zhang

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## **Dartmouth Police arrest homeless man after assaulting officers**

On Friday, June 12, 2020 at approximately 6:45 p.m., Dartmouth Police were dispatched to the area of Walgreens on State Road to check on the welfare of a man lying in the grass.

Upon arrival, officers identified the man as Denis Alekseyevich SHELAGIN, 36, homeless.

After SHELAGIN was advised that he was going to be placed in protective custody based on his level of intoxication, he spit on officers and began to fight with them. During the altercation, SHELAGIN also threatened to murder the officers.

SHELIGAN was eventually placed under arrest, and transported to St. Luke's Hospital to be evaluated.

As a result of the incident, SHELIGAN was charged with disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, assault and battery on a police officer, and four (4) counts of threats to commit a crime (to wit assault and battery and murder).

No officers were seriously injured during the altercation.

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## **Massachusetts Environmental Police and MassWildlife rescue and rehabilitate bald eagle**

Approximately three weeks ago, a juvenile Bald Eagle was reportedly found injured in a backyard. Officers from the Massachusetts Environmental Police, along with personnel from MassWildlife, captured the bird without incident and transported it to Tuft's Veterinary Medical Center in Grafton for further evaluation.

It was determined the Eagle's flight feathers were not properly developed. After a short rehabilitation period, the Bald Eagle was released in the same general area where it was found – taking flight unassisted and continuing to fly on its own.

MEP would like to thank the individuals who reported the injured animal, Tuft's for their rehabilitation efforts, and Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife for their

assistance in the capture and release of the Bald Eagle.

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## **New Bedford to receive \$1.5 million, Fall River \$1.2 million to fight homelessness**

United States Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Edward J. Markey (D-MA), along with Representatives Richard E. Neal (D-MA-01), James P. McGovern (D-MA-02), Stephen F. Lynch (D-MA-08), William Keating (D-MA-09), Joseph P. Kennedy III (D-MA-04), Katherine Clark (D-MA-05), Seth Moulton (D-MA-06), Ayanna Pressley (D-MA-07) and Lori Trahan (D-MA-04), announced that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded over \$71 million in federal grants to support cities and towns across Massachusetts in providing emergency shelter and critical services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

The funding, which was awarded through HUD's Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program, will support homeless individuals and individuals at risk of becoming homeless because of hardships such as job loss, wage reduction, or illness due to COVID-19. The funding can be used to make more emergency shelters available, operate emergency shelters, provide hotel/motel vouchers, provide essential services, and prevent individuals from becoming homeless.

This funding, targeted toward communities with high homeless populations or individuals at risk of becoming homeless, was awarded to:

Boston, MA – \$23,348,669

Cambridge, MA – \$2,268,869  
Fall River, MA – \$1,275,287  
Lawrence, MA – \$1,138,406  
Lowell, MA – \$2,610,376  
Lynn, MA – \$4,004,861  
New Bedford, MA – \$1,576,274  
Newton, MA – \$905,007  
Quincy, MA – \$1,237,584  
Somerville, MA – \$632,359  
Springfield, MA – \$3,951,604  
Worcester, MA – \$2,715,383  
Massachusetts Nonentitlement – \$27,939,981

“Housing is a human right and a necessary protection for all Massachusetts residents during this pandemic,” said Senator Warren. “This critical funding will help cities and towns continue to provide essential services and critical supports to ensure individuals experiencing homelessness have access to shelter and safety needs during this devastating pandemic. And I know that much more funding is needed – I will continue to fight for Congress to pass my and Rep. Pressley’s Public Health Emergency Shelter Act to provide the additional \$11.5 billion in ESG funds that advocates say is necessary.”

“Protecting those who are most vulnerable, those struggling with homelessness and exposure, is key to combatting the spread of the coronavirus,” said Senator Markey. “This federal funding means we can provide and expand the shelter, health care, treatment, employment assistance, and critical support that will ensure we combat homelessness as we battle this virus.”

“Thanks to HUD’s Emergency Solutions Grant cities and towns across Massachusetts, including Springfield, will be able to provide services for the vulnerable homeless population,” said Congressman Neal. “These individuals who have suffered hardship due to COVID-19 will be aided through programs that provide shelter and essential services. We must continue to

assist these communities.”

“These Emergency Solutions Grants will help Massachusetts protect our most vulnerable families, and I’m glad to see this Congressionally-appropriated money flowing into communities like Worcester,” said Congressman McGovern. “But our work is far from over. We can’t go back to normal after this pandemic runs its course. Normal was working families at risk of homelessness and struggling to get by. Normal was people relying on emergency shelters because they couldn’t make ends meet. As the coronavirus continues to magnify the injustices and inequalities in our country, I want us to do better than normal. We must keep fighting for the types of big changes that will prevent a catastrophe like this from happening again.”

“These HUD Emergency Solution Grants are essential to protect those families that are most exposed,” said Congressman Lynch. “Poverty and homelessness are predictors of vulnerability to the COVID-19 pandemic and these funds will make more emergency shelters, childcare, substance abuse treatment and employment assistance available to vulnerable populations.”

“These Emergency Solution Grants from the CARES Act are vital to the South Coast,” said Congressman Bill Keating. “As we continue to battle COVID-19, we need to realize that this is not just a health crisis, but a financial one too for so many families. The additional resources New Bedford and Fall River will receive will ensure none of our neighbors will go hungry, find themselves homeless, or lack the support systems they need during this challenging time.”

“In the wealthiest nation on earth, none of our neighbors should go hungry or homeless, not now, and not ever,” said Congressman Kennedy. “As we celebrate these critical funds supporting our communities, we must do more as so many in our Commonwealth continue to lose food security and shelter.”

“Coronavirus started as a public health crisis but it quickly became a financial one, destabilizing families and threatening their ability to pay rent and purchase other basic necessities. Meanwhile, we know access to safe shelter is a fundamental protection against this virus,” said Congresswoman Clark. “These federal resources provided through the CARES Act will help ensure Massachusetts residents have a safe place to turn and the support services needed to keep them stable and healthy while we weather this storm.”

“The coronavirus has taken a heavy toll on people’s health and on their bank accounts. In the richest country on earth, nobody should be forced out of their home because they lost a job or got sick, especially during a pandemic,” said Congressman Moulton. “People are doing their best to tread water, but communities need federal help. These funds are a start, but we’ll need more federal action to get through this.”

“Housing is a critical determinant of public health, a fact that has only been underscored by the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Congresswoman Pressley. “We have a moral obligation to protect the health and safety of all people, particularly our most vulnerable, and that includes ensuring our neighbors facing homelessness and the workers who support them have the resources they need to remain safe and healthy amid this crisis. I’m proud to have fought to ensure that these Emergency Solutions Grants were included in the most recent CARES legislation so that local providers in the Massachusetts 7th and across the country have the flexibility and support they need to be responsive to the needs of their communities by providing funding for training, protective equipment, rapid rehousing efforts, and more.”

“As some states experience new surges in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, it’s important that communities like Lowell and Lawrence have the resources they need to provide services to their most vulnerable residents. I’m proud to announce this

tranche of CARES Act funding, which will help governments keep those experiencing homelessness safe as we continue combating the spread of the coronavirus,” said Congresswoman Trahan.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Senator Warren has worked to ensure individuals and families can obtain and keep the housing they need to stay healthy. She introduced the Public Health Emergency Shelter Act to provide an additional \$11.5 billion for the Emergency Solutions Grant program to help provide emergency shelter and services for families experiencing homelessness during the pandemic, and co-sponsored the Emergency Rental Assistance and Rental Market Stabilization Act to provide relief to renters. Senator Warren recently convened conversations with advocates for affordable housing and homelessness prevention to discuss the federal government’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on vulnerable communities in Massachusetts.

This is the second round of CARES Act funding through HUD’s ESG program. In April, Senators Warren and Markey announced over \$25 million awarded to Massachusetts cities and towns through funding under the ESG program. More information about HUD’s COVID-19 relief funding is available [here](#).

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## **OPINION: A resurgence of the Black Panther Party is what this nation needs**

By Lisa White

We as a nation have failed the black community. White supremacy ideologies are woven into every service, department,

and system of the United States government. We have created racism, defined it, perpetuated it, and then held the black community responsible for correcting it.

But this is not a problem that can be solved by 12% of the nation. We can't expect the victims of abuse to cure the derangement of their abusers. This is not a problem we can just pass along to our legislators, in the hopes that they will take action on issues that they systematically created. This will only be solved by us, we the people, identifying the problem within each of us, and choosing to make a change. I believe that the white community has done enough talking, legislating and postulating, we've stolen the voice of the black community and replaced it with our own. I think now it's time to listen, to accept, and to understand.

In any free society, the people must have the power to require accountability from their government. The Declaration of Independence reads: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." It then goes on to say "whenever any form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness." It later describes long term government abuses to be, not only the right but the duty of the people, to correct.

So how do we correct this?

The answer may very well be written in our founding documents as well. The second amendment was put in place to help ease the people's concerns regarding members of the military and local law enforcement having too much power. The original purpose was to allow the average citizen, in his or her home,

to match firepower with an average foot soldier – to defend themselves, should the need ever arise, against the actions of a tyrannical government.

If allowing civilians to arm themselves was the balance of power necessary to keep members of the government, specifically law enforcement, from adopting and enacting an authoritarian position, then how have we evolved into a society in which so many of our people feel the system is so unbalanced and unjust? Perhaps because the second amendment was never intended to be fairly executed, and has been withheld from the members of our community who could benefit from it the most.

In 1966, members of the black community, in response to mistreatment from law enforcement in Oakland, CA., began a revolutionary group, known commonly as the Black Panther Party. Originally named the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, the group used open-carry, armed citizens' patrols to monitor police interactions. The citizens' patrols worked to address the growing concern over the mistreatment of people of color by the Oakland Police Department, and that other means of enacting change had been unsuccessful.

The Black Panther Party (BPP) returned a level of power back to the people of the California city, and quickly the party spread across the nation with chapters in every major US city. Although the BPP was developed to defend against police brutality, that became only one aspect of the benefits the organization provided to the communities they represented.

The BPP can also be credited with community outreach, food pantry services for low-income families, as well as advocates for educational equalities and children's rights and protections. However, shortly after the introduction of the BPP, and the armed citizen patrols began, a CA legislator proposed what is known as the Mulford Act, a piece of California legislation banning the public carrying of loaded

firearms. The Mulford Act, a blatant and intensional form of gun control, was deliberately aimed at dismantling the Black Panther Party.

The Mulford Act essentially worked in opposition to the BPP's primary objective in protecting members of the black community from racial inequities and mistreatment by CA law enforcement. The Act, signed by then-Republican California Governor Ronald Reagan, was the only legislative form of gun control to have ever been supported by the National Rifle Association.

Officially ending in 1982, the Black Panther Party received very little political support and was portrayed by media and news outlets as a dangerous group of radicals. But if our nation's founders could identify the second amendment as a means of balancing the power, then it would be un-American and a direct violation of our duties as citizens to not encourage this balance by supporting our neighbors to exercise their second amendment rights.

Perhaps a resurgence of the Black Panther Party is precisely what this nation needs.

Have an opinion to share? Email [info@newbedfordguide.com](mailto:info@newbedfordguide.com)

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## **Kennedy and Markey Take #NoCopMoney Pledge**

Matt Murphy  
State House News Service

U.S. Sen. Edward Markey and U.S. Rep. Joseph Kennedy have been unable to come to terms on a pledge to keep outside money from

being spent in their primary race for U.S. Senate, but both Democrats agreed on Wednesday not to accept contributions from police unions.

Kennedy wrote on Twitter in the morning that he had signed the pledge drafted by College Democrats of Massachusetts. "Thank you College Dems for our activism and commitment to justice," he said.

Later in the afternoon, Markey's campaign sent a press release announcing that he, too, had signed the #nocopmoney pledge, which was initiated in the wake of protests against police brutality following the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. "Police unions represent part of a system that needs fundamental change if our society is ever to see justice, which is why candidates and elected officials must reject police union money if they are serious about enacting reforms," Markey said.

Candidates who sign the #NoCopMoney pledge are expected to reject campaign donations from police unions and to donate any past campaign contributions to community organizations. Kennedy's campaign said it gave \$1,000 from 2015 to the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. Markey's campaign did not say if or where it planned to donate any money.