

UPDATE: Hudson school teacher identified as victim in Fitchburg accident where tire was involved

This is an update to an earlier story

The victim who suffered fatal injuries yesterday when a motor vehicle rim and tire crashed through her windshield is identified as Erin Beth MacKay, 42, of Templeton. MacKay was a 1st grade teacher at Forest Avenue Elementary School in Hudson and worked for Hudson Public Schools for 12 years.

The investigation into the incident is ongoing.

The State Police ask that anyone who was driving on Route 2 in the area of Mount Elam Road in Fitchburg early yesterday afternoon, and who saw any part of the incident OR have a dashboard-mounted camera in their vehicle, call MSP Troop C Headquarters at (508) 829-8326.

New Bedford alleged cocaine traffickers found dangerous, held in jail

A 24-year-old New Bedford man arrested earlier this month in possession of large quantities of narcotics and cash while already out on a bail for a domestic assault case, was ordered held without bail after being found dangerous by a District

Court Judge on Tuesday, Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced.

Timothy Oliver is charged with trafficking in excess of 200 grams of cocaine and conspiracy to violate the drug law.

Throughout the spring, New Bedford Police detectives gathered information regarding a cocaine distribution service. Detectives developed information that on June 1, the defendant and his co-defendant, Kelvin Trinidad, 25, of New Bedford, were going to receive a package from the US Postal Service at Oliver's Stowell Street apartment.

On that date, officers set up surveillance on Stowell Street and observed the defendants begin to detail a car with a power washer and blue bucket in the street. While detailing the vehicle, a postal truck arrived and delivered a package to the house. At this time, Oliver immediately left the car detailing work and went inside before coming back outside a short time later. The defendants then finished detailing the car, put the tools away, and placed an item into the back of a black Toyota. The defendants then entered the Toyota and began to travel eastbound. Police quickly stopped the car and a search warrant was executed on both the vehicle and the apartment.

Inside the apartment, police seized 92 grams of cocaine and 82 grams of crack cocaine, along with \$14,833 dollars in cash. And, inside the vehicle, police found an additional 510 grams of cocaine.

The dangerousness hearing for Mr. Oliver was held on Tuesday before Judge Sabine Coyne, who found the defendant to be a danger and ordered him held without bail for up to 120 days.

Mr. Trinidad, who was charged with trafficking in excess of 200 grams of cocaine, conspiracy to violate the drug laws and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, was also found to be a danger and held without bail for up to 120 days on June 2 by Judge Joseph Harrington.

Both hearings were prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Eric Demoura.□

“I am very pleased that the court detained both defendants as dangers to the community, which is exactly what they are. Defendant Oliver was caught with an extraordinary amount of cocaine and was already out on bail for a domestic assault. He has already violated his conditions of release on that case prior to being arrested for this very serious charge. He needs to be off the streets,” District Attorney Quinn said.

All charges against the defendant are allegations at this time. Defendants are innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

UMass Dartmouth Chancellor Johnson announces resignation

After a successful three-year tenure, Robert E. Johnson to leave UMass Dartmouth in September

UMass Dartmouth Chancellor Robert E. Johnson announced today that he will resign as Chancellor, effective September 4, 2020. Johnson has served as Chancellor of UMass Dartmouth since 2017.

“I am honored and humbled to have led, for three years, this world-class university that prides itself on its ambition, creative thinking, and research breakthroughs,” said Chancellor Johnson. “I reflect fondly on our time together and what we have accomplished since I arrived in July 2017. Together, we developed a shared ambition for the university’s future and have accomplished much.”

“Chancellor Johnson’s entrepreneurial spirit, commitment to student success, and belief in the power of a university to strengthen regional economies through research and engagement have helped create new opportunities for individuals and SouthCoast communities over the last three years,” said UMass System President Marty Meehan. “His leadership, grounded in personal and professional experiences, has been critical to the continued ascension of UMass Dartmouth as a national research university, especially during recent months as UMass and all of higher education have confronted unprecedented challenges.”

Highlights of Chancellor Johnson’s tenure include:

- The largest research grant in the University’s history – \$4.6M from the Office of Naval Research to fund research projects in undersea technologies.
- Achieving #84 nationwide and #3 in Massachusetts for student social mobility after graduation by U.S. News & World Report.
- Strengthened connections to the SouthCoast region for student learning experiences and community impact projects.
- Secured more than \$1.2M in funding for the University’s Blue Economy initiative that will create an interconnected marine science and technology corridor in the SouthCoast region.
- The completion of a new residential and dining complex for incoming first-year students.
- Research growth across campus, including a 26% increase in new externally funded grant awards from FY18-19.
- The expansion of the College of Nursing into the College of Nursing & Health Sciences to provide students with interdisciplinary, team-based health care workforce training and education opportunities.

“The state of UMass Dartmouth is strong, and it is positioned well for its next chapter with its next leader. Nothing stops and the journey continues. The university is advancing, the leadership is committed, the employees are resilient, and I could not be prouder of the students,” said Johnson.

Speaker DeLeo, Black and Latino Caucus agree on chokehold ban, intervention obligation

Matt Murphy

State House News Service

House Speaker Robert DeLeo and the Black and Latino Legislative Caucus agreed to the parameters of a policing reform bill Wednesday that would ban law enforcement's use of chokeholds and create an independent office to enforce policing standards and certification.

The broad outline of legislation that House leaders hope to have ready for a vote in the coming weeks is just the latest sign of growing momentum on Beacon Hill to address policing and the use of force by cops on people of color, following the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

As protesters have taken to the streets of Boston and other Massachusetts cities night after night, leadership at the State House, including Gov. Charlie Baker, have been contemplating the best ways to respond.

DeLeo and Rep. Carlos Gonzalez, a Springfield Democrat and the chair of the Black and Latino Legislative Caucus, released a joint statement on Wednesday night after a "frank and productive meeting" during which they agreed to a goal of sending legislation to Baker before the end of July.

The bill that House leadership intends to write would also

establish an “affirmative obligation” for police officers to intervene if a fellow member of law enforcement is improperly or illegally using force, and would create a special legislative commission to study the civil service law for ways to improve minority recruitment of police.

“As with any difficult task, the first step is to dig in and begin working. Today we took that first step. And we want to be clear, we view the ultimate enactment of this piece of omnibus legislation as our first step along the long road to ensuring the promise of equal justice for all the citizens of the Commonwealth,” DeLeo and Gonzalez said in the statement.

The short-term actions will “help address structural inequalities that lead to racial bias – both implicit and explicit,” they said, adding that they plan to identify additional issues that require review and plan separate discussions on the shared goals of addressing education and income inequality.

The new independent Office of Police Standards and Professional Conduct envisioned by DeLeo and the caucus would develop minimum statewide policies and procedures for law enforcement, including the use of force, and provide oversight of police certification and enhanced training.

DeLeo last Friday night in an email to House legislators promised “decisive action” to reform policing in Massachusetts and assemble a package of policy reforms modeled on the Black and Latino Caucus’s 10-point plan. Wednesday’s meeting with the caucus was the next step in the development of that bill.

Tear Gas and No-Knock Warrants

Senate President Karen Spilka also came out Wednesday and said she had put Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz at the head of a Senate Advisory Group on Racial Justice to review appropriate policy responses that could be taken up this session. That group held

its first meeting on Wednesday and Spilka said she wants to see action on policing and racial justice legislation this session.

Meanwhile, Senate Majority Leader Cynthia Creem of Newton said she had filed a bill Wednesday with Rep. Liz Miranda of Boston to improve the rules around police's use of force, create a "duty to intervene" for police who witness abuses of forces and make clear in law that unnecessary use of force is a violation of someone's civil rights.

The Creem-Miranda bill would also prohibit "no-knock" warrants, ban chokeholds, tear gas and other non-lethal weapons, put new investigatory requirements on the attorney general's office and require data collection and reporting to prevent abusive cops from being hired by other law enforcement departments.

"We have listened to far too many egregious stories from the black and brown communities to not take the decisive and comprehensive actions envisioned in this legislation," Creem said in a statement. "This bill is about putting in place systematic reforms that ensure accountability and work to restore the public's confidence that everyone is protected under the law from the use of outdated dehumanizing police tactics and excessive force."

The Boston Globe also reported Wednesday night that Baker was finalizing legislation to establish a statewide certification process for police, and could be ready to detail the proposal as soon as next week.

Woman succumbs to injuries after tire strikes car on Route 2 in Fitchburg; Massachusetts State Troopers seek public's help

This is an update to a story we reported yesterday.

Yesterday at approximately 1 p.m. Troopers assigned to State Police-Leominster responded to reports of a serious crash on Route 2 westbound at Mt. Elam Road in Fitchburg. Upon their arrival, they observed a Jeep SUV that had been struck in the windshield by a large tire and rim.

The operator of the Jeep, a 42-year-old woman from Templeton, was seriously injured in the collision. She was transported by ambulance to Leominster Hospital where she was then MedFlighted to UMass Medical Center in Worcester, where she succumbed to her injuries.

Her name is not being released tonight.

At this time the exact cause and circumstances of the crash are actively under investigation by the Massachusetts State Police. The investigation seeks to determine what vehicle the tire and rim came from, and whether it came off the axle or was being transported and became unsecured. The investigation also seeks to identify the driver of that vehicle.

A previous social media post by MSP that the other vehicle has been identified was inaccurate. We have identified another vehicle that was in that area but at this time we have not determined whether that vehicle or another still unidentified vehicle was the source of the tire and rim.

The investigation is being conducted by Troopers assigned to State Police Leominster, the Worcester County State Police Detective Unit, and the State Police Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section.

We ask anyone who may have seen the crash or has any information that may be helpful to call the State Police-Leominster Barracks at (978) 537-2188.

Massachusetts State Police Fugitive Unit, US Marshals, Fall River Police capture man wanted for homicide

A suspect wanted for murder in Columbus, Ohio, was captured this morning in Fall River in a joint operation by Massachusetts State Police, the United States Marshals Service, and Fall River Police.

TROY DUNCAN CAPERS 2d, 37, was taken into custody at an apartment at 19 Cook St.

The arrest came after US Marshals in Ohio developed information that CAPERS had fled to Massachusetts. Troopers assigned to the Massachusetts State Police Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section (MSP VFAS) and US Marshals in Boston (USMS) developed leads on three potential addresses in Fall River where CAPERS might be staying. MSP VFAS, USMS, Troopers assigned to the MSP Special Tactical Operations Team, Fall River Police, and Parole Officers set up surveillance on the three addresses.

Shortly after 6:20 a.m. today one of the apprehension teams located CAPERS at the Cook Street apartment and made the arrest.

CAPERS is wanted for homicide in Ohio for the fatal shooting of another man in Columbus on Jan. 4. The shooting occurred after CAPERS and the victim had a fistfight at a bar. After the fight CAPERS allegedly left the establishment, returned with a gun, and shot the victim.

CAPERS was expected to be arraigned in Bristol County today as a fugitive from justice. Prosecutors will work with Ohio authorities to arrange the suspect's rendition to answer to the homicide charge in that state.

New Bedford police seize \$250,000 in drugs over 6-week period

New Bedford police detectives seized a cumulative 562.3 grams of fentanyl and 803 grams of cocaine—with a street value of more than \$250,000—along with \$96,576 during a six week stretch in late April and May.

“Trafficking cases are significant,” explained head of the Narcotics Unit Lt. Justin Kagan. “It indicates that a major drug dealer has been caught with a notable quantity of illegal drugs.”

On June 2, Detectives seized 58 grams of cocaine and \$13,968. During 16 cases in May, Detectives seized 744.7 grams of cocaine, 511.6 grams of fentanyl, 22 grams of oxycodone pills,

and confiscated \$34,222. Trafficking cases between April 21 and April 30 resulted in 50.7 grams of fentanyl seized and \$48,386. confiscated.

“I am truly impressed by the hard work by all of our narcotics detectives,” said Lt. Kagan. “These cases are the result of their relentless efforts to investigate drug dealers in New Bedford. The impact of their work will be felt in the community.”

Chief Joseph Cordeiro agrees. “Our officers are out there daily facing two ongoing public crisis events but remain focused on community policing and their priorities to keep the city safe, prevent and combat crime,” said Cordeiro. “They constantly demonstrate remarkable resilience and dedication during a very challenging time in policing. I couldn’t be more proud of them.”

If you have any information on criminal activity in your community, the New Bedford Police Dept. wants to hear from you. You can leave an anonymous tip on our voicemail at (508) 991-6300 Ext. 1.

New Bedford residents invited to attend public meeting via Zoom on federal funding for COVID response

The City of New Bedford’s Office of Housing and Community Development will hold a community forum to discuss the best use of federal funding to improve the quality of life for New

Bedford residents specifically related to preventing, preparing for and responding to the coronavirus (COVID-19).

The public meeting will be held virtually via Zoom and can be accessed live on Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the following web address:

ZOOM MEETING

Meeting ID: 918 4297 6905

Password: 253364

Telephone Access: 1-646-558-8656

This public meeting is hosted by the City and designed to gather critical input from New Bedford residents. The public input will assist the City in formulating its strategy in the utilization of federal funding to address needs and priorities in the areas of public services, community services, homelessness resources and economic development. Input from the community is integral in shaping the priorities of these federal programs.

The City of New Bedford anticipates receiving \$1,624,151 in Community Development Block Grant COVID (CDBG-CV) and \$805,424 In Emergency Solutions Grant COVID (ESG-CV) funding for the purpose of serving low and moderate income residents and neighborhoods in Fiscal Year 2019 which runs from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

Residents are encouraged to attend the upcoming virtual public meeting and share their thoughts as to how the City may best allocate its supplemental federal funding intended to address our current public health crisis.

The public meeting will include a brief presentation by the City's Office of Housing & Community Development staff, including results from an assessment conducted as to needs and priorities for CDBG-CV and ESG-CV funding. Information about the application process through an RFP will also be presented.

The meeting will be an excellent opportunity for citizens to voice their opinions about how the City can best use its federal money to improve the quality of life in New Bedford and to suggest specific programs or activities needed to address and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Questions regarding this public meeting may be directed to the Office of Housing & Community Development staff at OHCD@newbedford-ma.gov.

Massachusetts State Police pursue stolen car and man who spit on troopers saying he has COVID-19

When a Massachusetts State Trooper yesterday captured a suspect who fled from a stolen car in Plymouth, the suspect refused to give his name, resisted arrest, spit on the Trooper, and said he was COVID-19 positive.

The suspect continued to spit in the cruiser during transport to the State Police-Norwell Barracks and defecated in the cruiser and the barracks' booking area.

According to Dave Procopio of the Massachusetts State Police, Troopers at the Barracks donned full-body personal protective equipment to gain control of the hostile suspect in the holding cell and fingerprint him. An MSP Crime Scene Services Trooper eventually was able to identify the suspect by fingerprints as Hamza Conner, 29, of Boston. Conner was charged with motor vehicle offenses, making threats, witness

intimidation, refusing to identify himself, vandalism, and resisting arrest.

After booking, Conner was transferred to the Norfolk County jail in Dedham to be held pending arraignment. After determining the suspect's true identity and address Troopers checked his name against a public health database in the city of Boston, where he lives, and determined he had never been tested for COVID-19. Upon transfer to the jail the suspect was determined to be showing no coronavirus symptoms and went through intake protocols. He has not yet been tested for COVID-19.

The sequence of events began shortly after 10 a.m. Tuesday when Braintree Police advised area departments that they were looking for a white Ford Explorer stolen from a pet supply store parking lot. A pet dog belonging to the owner, a Quincy man, was in the car when the vehicle was stolen.

At approximately 10:50 a.m. yesterday a Trooper working a detail on Route 3 southbound in Kingston was almost struck by the stolen vehicle as it travelled past him at a high rate of speed. Another Trooper ahead of the fleeing suspect deployed a tire deflation device across Route 3; the spike strips impacted two of the Explorer's tires but the vehicle kept traveling southbound on Route 3.

Troopers initiated a pursuit. The Explorer was involved in a crash on the ramp from Route 3 southbound to Route 44 westbound, and the occupant fled on foot toward Commerce Way in Plymouth. Troopers began searching for the suspect.

At approximately 11:15 a.m. a Trooper located the suspect on foot on Industrial Park Way in Plymouth. The suspect immediately become unruly and resistant, said he was COVID positive, and refused to identify himself. The suspect then spit at the Trooper as he was taken into custody and continued to spit inside the cruiser during transport. He also defecated

in the back of the cruiser and in the barracks.

A hazardous waste cleanup company was contacted to clean the cruiser and the barracks. Three Troopers involved in taking the suspect into custody and then controlling him at the barracks were put on a brief leave and will be monitored for symptoms. The Department will be attempting to have Conner tested for COVID-19.

The dog that was in the vehicle when it was stolen was located yesterday in Somerville and has been reunited with his family. At this time we believe the suspect drove to the Boston area after stealing the vehicle and left the dog there. We are also investigating whether the vehicle was involved in a crash in or around Boston during that time.

Suspect Conner was expected to be remotely arraigned today in Plymouth District Court.

Massachusetts State Police seek public's help in identifying truck

"Around 1:00 p.m. today, on Route 2 in Fitchburg, a tire believed to have come from this truck/trailer, crossed from the eastbound side to the westbound side and struck the pictured Jeep, causing serious injuries to the driver of the Jeep.

The truck was last seen traveling westbound on Route 2 in Leominster, possibly taking I-190 southbound.

The trailer being pulled by the truck is believed to have a

Maine registration plate attached.

Anyone with information or observes this truck, please call the State Police Leominster Barracks at (978) 537-2188.

Please share.”-Massachusetts State Police.



