

Pressley: Equity agenda should extend beyond police reform

Chris Lisinski

State House News Service

American leaders must address not only police violence but also a slew of other social and political issues that stem from centuries of structural racism, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley told business leaders on Friday.

During a virtual appearance before the New England Council, Pressley described brutality by law enforcement, the COVID-19 pandemic and the national recession prompted by the viral outbreak as a “crisis within a crisis within a crisis,” all linked by systemic inequity oppressing people of color.

Her comments came as Boston Mayor Martin Walsh declared racism a public health crisis in the city.

Driven by outrage over the deaths of several Black Americans at the hands of police, protests have swept the country in recent weeks with tens of thousands of people demanding reforms, including a reallocation of significant portions of police department budgets toward other social services.

Pressley said government officials should take immediate action to curb police brutality, but urged elected officials to broaden their response to include other factors that disproportionately affect people of color, such as the fact that Black mothers are four times as likely to die during childbirth as white mothers.

“It will mean we have to be intentional, deliberate and unapologetic about calling out structural racism for what it

is: white supremacy,” she said. “It will call on us to legislate with an equity lens in everything, not just police reform. It means examining our housing policies, our lending policies, our criminal-legal system top to bottom, our health care system, and on and on.”

Congressional Democrats unveiled legislation this week that would ban chokeholds, encourage racial bias training, limit access to military equipment, and create a national registry of officers found to have committed misconduct, according to news reports.

Pressley introduced legislation in the House that would eliminate the legal protection against lawsuits known as qualified immunity for police and government officials in most cases, and she also filed a resolution in the House of Representatives condemning police brutality and calling for reforms to hold departments accountable.

She said Friday that the resolution, which has almost 200 cosponsors, is the first time since 1999 that a U.S. representative introduced such a proposal.

“Congressional intent is a powerful tool,” Pressley said. “I do believe in this moment that Congress must act as the conscience of our nation and state plainly that this is an issue of care and consequences to our nation, and we must go on record when it comes to racial injustice.”

Although Pressley slammed President Donald Trump for “overtly racist and cruel rhetoric,” she said that structural racism “existed long before Donald Trump descended the escalator at Trump Tower” to start his presidential campaign.

The other two COVID-related crises Pressley described Friday – both public health and economic – have also had a disproportionate impact on nonwhite communities.

Black people account for about 24 percent of deaths where the

victim's race is known, but only 13 percent of the national population, according to figures from the COVID Racial Data Tracker published by the Atlantic and the Antiracist Research and Policy Center.

Pressley said she represents the "hardest-hit district" in Massachusetts, noting that it includes hotspots Boston and Chelsea.

Infections and financial strain appear linked as well. The congresswoman cited a MassINC Polling Group survey released Wednesday that found 29 percent of Massachusetts renters – who are more frequently younger, lower-income and nonwhite than homeowners – had missed at least some rent payment between April and June, compared to just 13 percent of homeowners.

She said the poll showed that the likelihood of a household containing someone who tested positive or displayed COVID symptoms is "directly related to the level of economic stress."

For households that did not list any of six markers for economic distress, 4 percent said someone in the home had symptoms of COVID-19. That rate increased to 30 percent for households in the most economic distress.

The U.S. House approved a \$3 trillion stimulus package last month that would direct \$500 billion to state governments and \$375 billion to local governments, increase funding for personal protective equipment and testing, inject hospitals with \$100 billion in support, and extend a range of other relief.

Pressley touted the \$7.6 billion contained in the bill for community health centers, which often serve lower-income and vulnerable populations.

That bill has been sitting in the Senate, where Republican leaders have not indicated their plan.

“We need to continue to advocate for the Senate to do their job,” Pressley said. “They’re confirming judges, but they’re not leading on getting this bill to the floor for a vote still in the midst of this pandemic.”

New Bedford High School softball field ribbon cutting celebrates latest improvement to campus

New Bedford Public Schools staff and City officials hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to inaugurate New Bedford High School’s new state-of-the-art varsity softball field on June 12. While a first game will have to wait until public health guidelines allow, a uniformed contingent of Whaler athletes was on hand to represent their teams and participate in a ceremonial first throw.

Two years in the making, the new field is laid out according to National Federation of High School (NFHS) Softball standards, noted Thomas Tarpey, NBPS Director of Physical Education, Health & Athletics, and emcee of the ceremony, to which only media was invited.



The ceremony will air on New Bedford Cable Access and online.

Mayor Jon Mitchell, whose advocacy for continued improvements to New Bedford High School include renovation of the Bronspiegel Auditorium, locker rooms and the new Bobby Watkins Fitness Center, said, “This new softball field complex adds to New Bedford High’s portfolio of first-rate facilities and amenities. It is an investment for all students to realize their full academic and athletic potential – a flagship school now and for future generations.”

School Committee member and chair of the Facilities Subcommittee Bruce Oliveira added “not only are we pleased to be able to provide a well-deserved, topflight facility for Lady Whalers softball, but I would like to believe that this field provides a ray of hope for a brighter future in this time of uncertainty and unrest.”

Superintendent Thomas Anderson stated “The softball field is another example of our collective commitment to provide the highest quality academic and athletic experiences for our students. As a former Division I collegiate athlete, I cherish the memories and the opportunities I had in high school that prepared me – and I want our students to have the resources and supports to thrive and maximize their opportunities to compete at any level.”



In thanking everyone who had a part in the project, Headmaster Bernadette Coelho noted “This new softball field is consistent with the city and district’s continued commitment to capital expansion, enhancing the experience of New Bedford High School scholars and athletes.”

Girls Softball Coach Harry Lowe looked to the future. “Especially in light of recent events, it’s incredibly exciting to have this new, state-of-the-art field to look forward to. I’m thankful to everyone who helped make this happen and can’t wait to get back out there.”

The complex features several upgrades including new dugouts, bullpen, fencing, security lighting, sound system, press box, seating and more.

Groundwork included significant upgrades to the entirety of the field footprint. Work included additive grading, leveling, and layering for optimal drainage using successive layers of sand, soil, sod, and gravel base. A clay infield was installed along with red crushed brick in the bullpen.



The field also features a specially constructed outfield wall designed to accommodate mix use for other sports, such as field hockey in the fall or lacrosse in the spring.

As part of the City of New Bedford's most recent Capital Improvement Plan, over \$250,000 was invested. This was in addition to work by the New Bedford Public Schools Facilities Department, which eliminated overhead costs and saved approximately \$150,000, noted Al Oliveira, NBPS Director of Facilities Operations.

Facilities carpenters also constructed the new press box to maximize savings.

The complex is fitted with NBHS Whaler graphics, created by the NBPS Print Department.

The softball field is the latest major addition to New Bedford High School's athletic facilities and represents an extensive enhancement to the school's east campus grounds located along Liberty and Parker Streets. Director Tarpey added "It's a topnotch athletic facility; no school in the region has a better looking, better appointed softball field."

Massachusetts State Police Air Wing and Haverhill Police taken suspects into custody in Lynn following Rte. 93 pursuit

At 9:08 a.m. today Troop A dispatch received information from Haverhill Police Department that they were looking for a black Mercedes that was stolen from a dealership in Haverhill. Haverhill Police had the vehicle stopped when the operator fled at a high rate of speed onto Route 495.

At 9:20 a.m. Sergeant Sweeney of the State Police observed the black Mercedes reported stolen out of Haverhill on Route 93 southbound south of Exit 42 in Andover. Sergeant Sweeney activated his cruiser's emergency lights and attempted to stop the Mercedes, but the driver refused to stop. A pursuit was authorized with Troop A Headquarters assuming command and control. The pursuit was terminated at Commerce Way.

At 9:30 a.m. on Route 93 Southbound south of Route 95/128 in Woburn the Mercedes is again located and a pursuit was authorized to stop the vehicle with Troop A Headquarters

assuming command and control. The vehicle flees again and a tire deflation device is attempted without success. The operator of the Mercedes takes the Exit 32 off ramp to Route 60 and the pursuit is once again terminated.

At 9:34 a.m. a Trooper working a paid detail was turning around on Auburn Street in Medford when he observed the operator of the Mercedes come to a stop. The Trooper exited his cruiser and ordered the operator to stop. The operator of the Mercedes drove away striking the Trooper, his cruiser and another vehicle in the process. The Trooper drove himself to a local hospital for evaluation.

At 1:00 p.m. the Mercedes is located in Lynn on Pond Street by the Massachusetts State Police Air Wing. Utilizing marked and unmarked cruisers the vehicle was followed and four individuals were taken into custody without incident.

The driver, JONATHAN CESAR, 18, of Malden, and three passengers YOSVANI HERNANDEZ, 18, of Somerville and Two Juveniles were charged with:

Receiving stolen motor vehicle.

The incident is under investigation and more charges may follow.

UPDATE: Missing 47-year old Wareham man found dead

Daniel Smith, age 47, of Wareham, was last seen on Monday, June 8. Chief John Walcek reports that the body of a missing Wareham man was found in a wooded area in Wareham on Friday.

The initial investigation indicates that his death is not suspicious. The investigation remains ongoing by Wareham Police and State Police detectives assigned to the Plymouth County District Attorney's Office.

During the search, Chief Walcek activated the Southeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (SEMLEC) Search and Rescue Unit to assist in searching for Smith.

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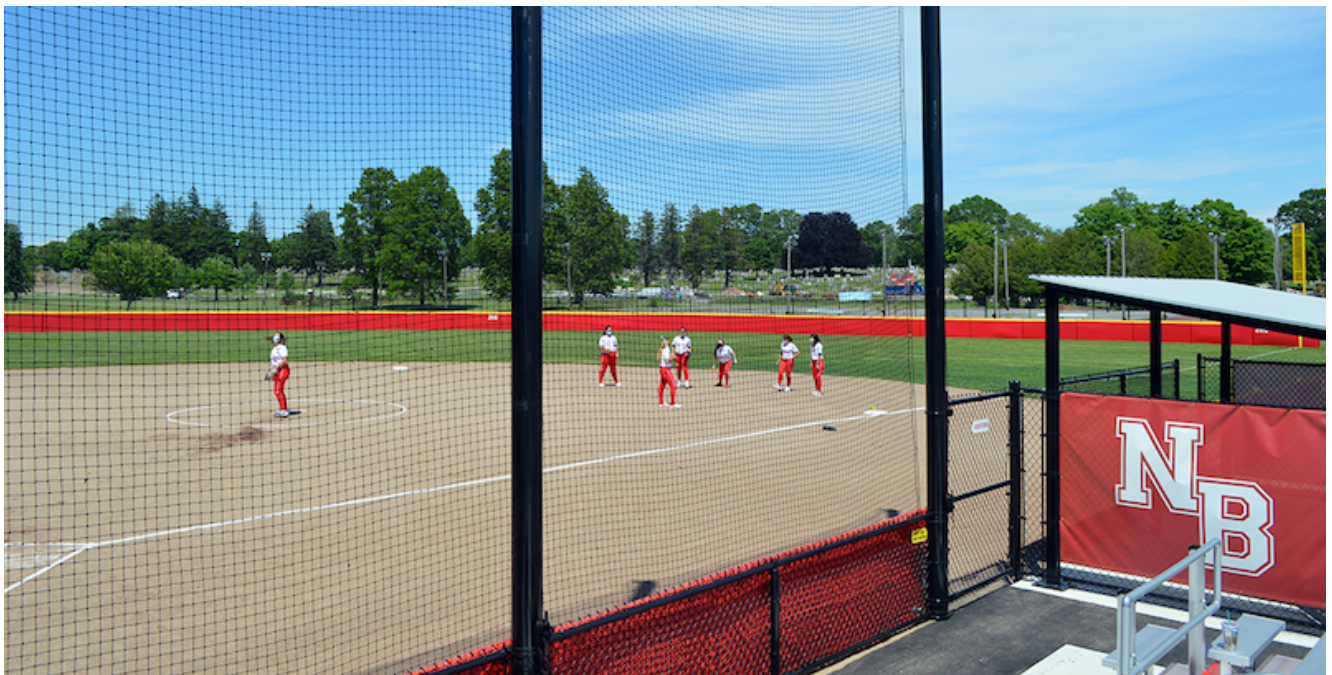
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Walsh declares racism a public health crisis, transfers \$3 million from police to health department

Michael P. Norton

State House News Service

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh declared racism as a public health crisis Friday and cited COVID-19 numbers in making the announcement.

"I want to declare racism to be a public health crisis in the City of Boston," Walsh said during a press conference outside city hall. "The health impacts of historic and systemic racism are clear in our COVID-19 case numbers and the impacts go far beyond the current crisis."

Walsh said that as part of the declaration he's transferring \$3 million from the police department's overtime budget to the Boston Public Health Commission. There were two new COVID-19 deaths in Boston and 44 new confirmed infections in the city,

Walsh said. So far, the city has attributed 673 deaths to the respiratory disease, and 13,118 confirmed cases. –

CFC Fried Chicken Opens Their Third Location in New Bedford

If you've never tried CFC (Crown Fried Chicken) you're in for a treat! Light, crispy and perfectly seasoned its one of New Bedford's hidden gems. With locations in the south end (42 Rodney French Blvd) and at 1570 Acushnet Ave doing brisk business we received word that they were opening a new location at 340 Hathaway Blvd. right next to New Bedford High School.



It's wonderful to see family owned businesses thrive and

expand in our city. Stop in this weekend to say hello! They are available for takeout, and delivery with UBER Eats at their other locations and very soon at the new location. Open 7 days a week, and open late (12am)

<https://cfcfriedchicken.net/>

340 Hathaway Blvd.

New Bedford, MA. 02740

774-305-4262

774-305-4373



Two Bristol County Sheriff's staff members, three inmates test COVID-19 positive since June 4

The two staff members are corrections officers. Both have reported feeling fine and will be away from the facility for a few weeks. In total, 34 staff members have recovered from COVID and returned to duty since the beginning of March while seven, including the two previously mentioned corrections officers, remain away from the facility recovering. All currently recovering individuals are expected back over the next few weeks. One staff member, a health care professional with Correctional Psychiatric Services, resigned after recovering.

Twenty-eight county inmates have recovered from COVID-19 and have returned to the general population. Ten county inmates, including the three new cases mentioned above, remain in medical isolation. All are being continuously monitored by health care professionals and are expected to return to the general population over the next few weeks. Four inmates who tested positive last month were released as their sentences were concluded.

Over the past few months, the Bristol County Sheriff's Office has instituted many protocols to protect inmates, detainees and staff from the Coronavirus outbreak. Some of these measures include:

- All employees, detainees, and inmates were issued masks that must be worn inside the secure perimeter of the facilities.

- All areas of the facilities are being cleaned\disinfected every day on every shift.
 - All staff members are being screened before entering the buildings; new arriving inmates are being screened before being accepted into custody.
 - In-person visitation has been suspended to limit the number of people coming in and out. It will resume, hopefully soon, based on guidance from the Governor's Office, DPH and CDC.
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New Bedford man sentenced for trafficking cocaine

A New Bedford man who admitted to participating in the delivery of more than an ounce of crack cocaine in Rhode Island in February 2018 was sentenced on Thursday to 42 months in federal prison.

Chanel Williams, 41, previously admitted to the court that, following Facebook communications with an individual in Pawtucket seeking crack cocaine, he and another New Bedford man traveled to Pawtucket on February 13, 2018, to deliver the drugs. Williams admitted to the court that he remained inside the vehicle he drove to Pawtucket while Jordan Fernandes, 30, went inside a residence to deliver the drugs.

The delivery was electronically monitored by members of the FBI's Safe Streets Violent Gang Task Force and Providence Police.

Williams pleaded guilty on December 4, 2019, to possession with intent to distribute and distribute cocaine base. At sentencing on Thursday, U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith sentenced Williams to 42 months in federal prison to be

followed by five years supervised release.

Williams' sentence is announced by United States Attorney Aaron L. Weisman, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Boston Division Joseph R. Bonavolonta, and Providence Police Colonel Hugh T. Clements, Jr.

Jordan Fernandes, who pleaded guilty on February 3, 2020, to two counts of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 28 grams or more of cocaine base, three counts of possession with intent to distribute and distribution of 28 grams or more of cocaine base, and one count of possession with intent to distribute cocaine base, is awaiting sentencing.

The cases are being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Helen H. Lee and Terrence P. Donnelly.

Massachusetts Environmental Police, local police and fire departments join forces to relocate moose

On Thursday, June 11, 2020, a moose was found to be traveling through the city of Lowell. Due to both the populated location and difficult conditions, it was determined that the moose needed to be relocated. Given the weather conditions, traffic, and terrain including the Merrimack River, multiple agencies assisted in the relocation.

Personnel specially trained in the chemical immobilization of

animals were able to immobilize the moose as it entered the river. Proper planning allowed for several vessels to be present with flotation equipment to keep the moose afloat during the rescue process. The animal was removed from the water and checked for any injuries or damage. After ensuring the moose was uninjured, it was placed into a vehicle for transportation to a more desirable location. The moose was released and monitored until it fully recovered from the effects of the immobilization agent.

The rescue was all-encompassing, involving the following agencies working together to ensure the well-being of the moose and the general public:

- 1.) Massachusetts Environmental Police
- 2.) Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (MassWildlife)
- 3.) Lowell Police Department (Official)
- 4.) UMass Lowell PD
- 5.) National Park Service
- 6.) Lowell Fire Department