

# Governor Baker files bill to implement police officer certification system

The Baker-Polito Administration today filed legislation to create a framework for certifying Massachusetts law enforcement officers, provide accountability, ensure that police departments in and outside Massachusetts have access to candidates' training and disciplinary records, and provide incentives for officers to pursue advanced training to better serve their communities.

"This bill will create a more modern, transparent and accountable system for law enforcement credentialing and training. It will provide police departments with the tools they need to build trust and strong relationships with every community across the Commonwealth—at a time when we need it most," said Governor Charlie Baker. "We are grateful for the Black and Latino Caucus' and Public Safety officials' collaboration on this bill, and look forward to working with the Legislature to get it passed."

The bill, entitled An Act to Improve Police Officer Standards and Accountability and to Improve Training, would for the first time require police officers in Massachusetts to be certified, and it would allow for decertification, suspension of certification, or reprimand in the event of certain misconduct. Toward this end, the bill would create the Police Officer Standards and Accreditation (POSA) Committee, which would be comprised of law enforcement and civilian representatives, at least half of whom would be required to be persons of color.

"Massachusetts is one of four states without a police certification process," said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. "But

the high standards of training we require for our police departments give us a strong foundation on which to build one. This bill will allow police departments to make better-informed recruitment and hiring choices while improving accountability for all the communities we serve.”

The bill would charge the POA Committee with the responsibility of certifying all law enforcement officials in Massachusetts, including those from non-municipal departments serving transit agencies, colleges, and other entities. The bill would also require the Committee to create a database of certified officers, ensure that training and misconduct records are available to officers’ current and future employers, and develop a standardized background check for those seeking employment with a new police department. The background check would include a check of the POA database and the National Decertification Index.

“A comprehensive POA system will enhance accountability and apply consistent standards statewide,” said Secretary of Public Safety and Security Thomas A. Turco. “It will improve public safety and public trust for the men and women who serve, protect, and inspire our cities and towns.”

Finally, the Administration’s bill would provide incentives for law enforcement officers who pursue advanced training in relevant skills and specialties beyond the levels required of all police officers. Such training would include foreign languages, advanced domestic violence and sexual assault response, advanced de-escalation techniques, and other high-level proficiencies.

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# **31 Massachusetts “NOB” gang members and associates arrested in multi-jurisdictional, multi-task force sting**

The following is a statement released by United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling of the District of Massachusetts after the arrests of 31 Boston area gang members and associates:

Twenty members and associates of NOB, a Boston-based street gang, have been charged in federal court in Boston for various crimes, including racketeering (“RICO”) conspiracy, violent crimes in aid of racketeering, drug trafficking, crossing state lines for the purpose of prostitution (the Mann Act), firearms charges and bank fraud.

Two other associates were previously charged with drug trafficking and firearms related charges. In addition, nine individuals were charged with conspiring to distribute controlled substances, including fentanyl, in a drug conspiracy linked to NOB.

“Dismantling violent gangs is a top priority of the Justice Department – operations like these have a direct, beneficial effect on the neighborhoods in which these gangs sell drugs and shoot each other,” said United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling. “Today’s arrests are also a reminder that well-funded, professional police departments are not optional, but crucial, for protecting the safety of our communities.”

“Today’s arrests should serve as a warning that we will not tolerate gang related violence, and those who cause it,” said

Boston Police Commissioner William Gross. "Members of this criminal enterprise wrongly believed they were above the law, but they clearly underestimated us."

"This investigation is an example of ATF's dedication to working with our local, state and federal partners in identifying, targeting and investigating violent criminals who are involved in selling firearms and narcotics. These are criminals who prey upon innocent citizens and lessen the quality of life in our neighborhoods," said ATF Special Agent in Charge Kelly Brady. "Our neighborhoods deserve to flourish without fear or intimidation inflicted by violent gangs. We will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to reduce the violent crime that has done so much damage to so many of our Boston neighborhoods."

"Today we saw that organized crime is no match for law enforcement. As alleged, many of the individuals arrested today have engaged in a ruthless and senseless string of attacks and murders, terrorizing the communities in which they operated all across the state. Some were involved in violent crimes as far away as Maine, Connecticut, and Rhode Island," said Joseph R. Bonavolonta, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Boston Division. "As a result of our combined efforts, the threat posed by this criminal organization has been neutralized, and the members and associates of this vicious gang will now have to answer for their horrible crimes."

According to charging documents, since the summer of 2019, federal and local authorities have been investigating NOB, which is an abbreviation for Norton/Olney/Barry – streets in Dorchester. NOB is associated with the longstanding Wendover street gang. It is alleged that, through the racketeering conspiracy, members and associates of NOB were involved in a range of criminal activity including murders, attempted murders, armed robberies, drug trafficking, sex trafficking and illegal firearms crimes. While the gang is based in Boston, their criminal activity spanned across other

communities, including Randolph, New Bedford, Stoughton, Brockton, East Bridgewater, Taunton, and communities on Cape Cod, as well as Rhode Island, Maine and Connecticut.

Over the last approximately four years, it is alleged that NOB members/associates have committed multiple murders and shootings – many of which targeted rival gang members, particularly members/associates of the Cameron Street gang, another Boston-based street gang. For example, it is alleged that, in February 2020, two NOB-related murders were committed in Boston and Brockton.

The twin brother of the Brockton victim had been shot and killed in July 2019 in Boston. In a recorded jail call during this period of violence, a NOB member remarked that the gang's rivals were "droppin' like flies." During the same time period, gang members/associates were involved in the theft of multiple motor vehicles (some of which were used for violent crimes), and one of the thefts resulted in the kidnapping a five-year-old female victim from Boston, who was later abandoned in Randolph.

In addition to violence, NOB members/associates have allegedly trafficked drugs throughout Massachusetts, including marijuana, fentanyl, cocaine, cocaine base (crack), heroin and various types of prescription pills, including opioids. The fentanyl distributed by the gang involved not only fentanyl in powder form, but also fentanyl pills that had the appearance of oxycodone pills. On July 20, 2019, police officers conducted a vehicle stop of two of the defendants. Officers recovered a plastic bag with the fentanyl pills and a loaded 9mm pistol with an obliterated serial number from their vehicle. Ballistics analysis subsequently linked the pistol to a prior shooting in New Bedford.

NOB members/associates were also allegedly involved in sex trafficking, including transporting women across state lines for the purposes of engaging in prostitution. For example, an

NOB member allegedly transported two sisters from Massachusetts – one of whom was a minor at the time – to Connecticut in April 2017 for the purpose of having them engage in prostitution.

The charges of RICO conspiracy and committing violent crimes in aid of racketeering each provide for a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. The charges of conspiracy to distribute controlled substances and possession with intent to distribute controlled substances each provide for a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of \$1 million.

The charge of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime provides a mandatory consecutive sentence of five years in prison, up to life of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. The charge of crossing state lines for the purposes of prostitution provides a sentence of up to 10 years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling; Boston Police Commissioner William G. Gross; Kelley D. Brady, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Boston Field Division; Joseph R. Bonavolonta, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Field Division; John Gibbons, U.S. Marshal for the District of Massachusetts; Colonel Christopher Mason, Superintendent of the Massachusetts State Police; New Bedford Police Chief Joseph C. Cordeiro; Quincy Police Chief Paul Keenan; Randolph Police Chief William Pace; Brockton Police Chief Emanuel C. Gomes; Stoughton Police Chief Donna M. McNamara; Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins; Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins; Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz; Plymouth County Sheriff

Joseph D. McDonald Jr.; Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III; and Norfolk County Sheriff Jerome P. McDermott and made the announcement today. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Michael Crowley and Corey Steinberg of Lelling's Organized Crime and Gang Unit are prosecuting the case.

The details contained in the charging documents are allegations. The defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

1. Michael Brandao, a/k/a "G Fredo," and "Frizzblock Fredo," 19, is charged with RICO conspiracy; conspiracy to distribute controlled substances; and possession with intent to distribute controlled substances.

2. Kelvin Barros, a/k/a "Kal" or "7981 Kal," 24, is charged with RICO conspiracy; conspiracy to distribute controlled substances; and possession with intent to distribute controlled substances.

3. Ricky Pina, a/k/a "Blake," 23, is charged with RICO conspiracy; conspiracy to distribute controlled substances; and possession with intent to distribute controlled substances.

4. David Rodriguez, a/k/a "D," 34, is charged with RICO conspiracy.

5. Wilson Goncalves-Mendes, a/k/a "Dub," 24, is charged with RICO conspiracy.

6. Joshua Teixeira, a/k/a "Trouble," 25, is charged with RICO conspiracy and conspiracy to distribute controlled substances.

7. Joseph Gomes, a/k/a "Joey" or "J-Money," 24, is charged with RICO conspiracy.

8. Alidio Barbosa, a/k/a "Ace Boogie" or "Ace," 23, is charged with possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial

number.

9. Samael Mathieu, a/k/a "Hamma" or "Hamma Thang," 23, is charged with RICO conspiracy and conspiracy to distribute controlled substances.

10. Moses Cabral, a/k/a "Moe Money," 26, is charged with RICO conspiracy; conspiracy to distribute controlled substances; possession with intent to distribute controlled substances; and crossing state lines for the purposes of prostitution.

11. Delven Carvalho-Centeio, a/k/a "Delly," 22, is charged with RICO conspiracy; conspiracy to distribute controlled substances; possession with intent to distribute controlled substances; and crossing state lines for the purposes of prostitution.

12. Darius Bass, a/k/a "Tre" or "Trigga Tre," 26, is charged with violent crimes in aid of racketeering.

13. Damian Cortez, 31, is charged with crossing state lines for the purposes of prostitution and possession with intent to distribute controlled substances.

14. Anton Lopes, a/k/a "Ton Ton," 25, is charged with possession with intent to distribute controlled substances; possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number; and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

15. Brian Cardoso, 27, is charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

16. Theresa Alves, 26, is charged with conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute controlled substances.

17. Hailey Stringfield, 19, is charged with conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute controlled substances.



18. Jawwad Freeman, 22, is charged with possession with intent to distribute controlled substances; possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime; and possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number.

19. Gullit Gomes, 28, is charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition.

20. Devon Hamilton, 20, is charged with bank fraud.

21. Adriano Cortez, a/k/a "A," 26, is charged with conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute controlled substances.

22. Fabrice Teixeira, 32, is charged with conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute controlled substances.

23. Armando Gomes, a/k/a "G," 31, is charged with conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute controlled substances.

24. Patrick Dunn, 28, is charged with conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute controlled substances.

25. Daniel Barbosa, a/k/a "D," 25, is charged with conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute controlled substances.

26. Carlos Monteiro, 43, is charged with conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute controlled substances.

27. Tre Fernandes, a/k/a "0Z" or "0C," 25, is charged with conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute controlled substances.

28. Sandro Pereira Cabral, 23, is charged with conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute controlled

substances.

29. John Rodrigues, a/k/a "Joao Fernandes Rodrigues," 26, is charged with conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute controlled substances.

30. Sean Brown, 25, is charged with possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance; being a felon in possession of a firearm; and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

31. Eric Rodriguez, 32, is charged with possession with intent to distribute controlled substances; conspiracy to distribute controlled substances; and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

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## **Racism declared a public health crisis in Everett**

Matt Murphy

State House News Service

Following the lead of Boston, Everett Mayor Carlo DeMaria declared racism a public health crisis in his city on Tuesday and said he had signed a pledge to review the Everett Police Department's policies on use of force.

"The City of Everett is culturally rich and abundantly diverse. Racism or discrimination, in any form, will not be accepted nor tolerated. It is with this in mind that I find it imperative to declare racism a public health crisis in the City of Everett," DeMaria said in a statement released by City Hall.

The move follows **Boston Mayor Marty Walsh's Friday declaration of a public health crisis in the capital with respect to racism**, and his decision to reallocate police overtime money toward social services.

DeMaria said he had signed the **"Mayor's Pledge" issued by the Obama Foundation** and committed the city to reforming use of force policies, if necessary, and engaging the community for feedback as part of its review of policing in Everett.

"Chokeholds have never and will never be a method of restraint taught to our Everett Police Department," DeMaria said. The mayor said the police department's policies and procedures mirror the guidelines established by the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission for municipal police training, and the department is actively updating its use-of-force and de-escalation policies, as well as the rules concerning an officer's duty to intervene when they observe misconduct by a fellow officer. While DeMaria said officers have been taught for years not to initiate police involvement with another person based on race, gender, sexual orientation, age, or physical ability, a policy codifying that practice in the city will be published and implemented within 10 days.

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## **Expanded voting options for 2020 elections in Massachusetts passes Senate**

Chris Van Buskirk and Sam Doran  
The State House News Service

The Senate passed expanded vote-by-mail legislation Tuesday

that would allow voters to avoid the polls, but still participate, during the upcoming primaries and general election if they feel unsafe due to the ongoing pandemic.

The Senate approved its own version (S 2755) of vote-by-mail legislation that would offer registered voters three options to cast a ballot: during extended early voting periods, voting in-person on election day, or voting-by-mail. Between early voting and vote-by-mail, the reforms could substantially reduce lines on Nov. 3 and increase interest in sometimes lower-turnout primary contests, supporters said.

As social distancing has pushed people away from crowded, public locations, officials saw voting-by-mail as a way to offer a safe alternative to keep participation high during the 2020 elections. After adopting several amendments, the Senate unanimously passed the bill that would instruct Secretary of State William Galvin to mail every voter an application for a ballot by July 15.

The bill now goes back to the House, which approved the initial voting bill on June 4, and it must be reconciled between leaders of both branches before final legislative votes can be taken and the bill can be sent to Gov. Charlie Baker for review.

Operating in a virtual session with many members participating via phone, senators dispensed with 41 amendments over the course of nearly three hours. Senate President Karen Spilka said she thought the session went smoothly and the bill “will provide the most robust vote-by-mail ever in the history of Massachusetts.”

“We need to get this on the governor’s desk quickly so that the secretary of state can start working on it, the clerks can start working on it, and we can help them all meet their obligations,” she told the News Service, adding that the two branches must work together to push the legislation forward.

Sen. Barry Finegold, the Senate chair of the Election Laws Committee, said the process of crafting the pandemic voting bill was a “balancing act” and it did not come “without its challenges.” Provisions in the bill, he said, create new tasks for local clerks and “because of that we will do everything we can to be helpful to them.”

“Our goal with this legislation was to make it easier for people to exercise their fundamental democratic right to vote during these unprecedented times,” he said during the session. “This is the first time in the history of the commonwealth that we are offering early voting for primaries, sending out applications to vote by mail, and counting ballots after Election Day.”

Minority Leader Bruce Tarr questioned whether the expanded voting methods would be limited to the 2020 elections, or extended to future elections. Finegold said the provisions of the bill would expire Dec. 31.

Prior to Tuesday’s session, Common Cause Massachusetts and more than 80 organizations, including ACLU and MassPIRG, threw their support behind three amendments filed by Sens. Jo Comerford, Adam Hinds, and Eric Lesser dealing with an online portal to request ballots, postmarking ballots to ensure they are properly counted, and extending the deadline to request mail-in or absentee ballots to the Friday before Election Day. All three were adopted during Tuesday’s session.

Lesser’s amendment would require Secretary of State William Galvin to offer a functional online portal no later than Oct. 1 for voters to request mail-in ballots for the general election. Lesser said requesting ballots online is easier, reduces local clerks’ workload, and is “more in line with how most of us live our lives” in an increasingly online world.

If ballots are returned via bulk mail, some advocates have raised concerns that those ballots would not receive a

postmark and might not be counted because it would be difficult to determine if it was mailed by a voter on time. As amended, the Senate bill would ask Galvin to pursue “a system which generates a postmark for determining the date upon which the envelope was mailed.”

Sen. Jamie Eldridge and others pointed to recent elections in other states as examples of what Massachusetts should avoid.

Eldridge said nearly 70 percent of Wisconsin’s African American voters live in Milwaukee, where the city reduced its physical polling location in the spring primary from 180 to five. The Acton Democrat sponsored a successful amendment to limit any last-minute changes to Massachusetts polling locations.

One amendment from Sen. Becca Rausch would have required the secretary of state to mail out ballots for the general election to every voter in the state who registered before Oct. 14, removing the step of asking voters to apply for a ballot. The Needham Democrat withdrew her amendment without asking for a vote and pointedly targeted Galvin for what she described as “disingenuous and belittling” remarks on the proposal.

The package would have included an official ballot, instructions for early voting, instructions for completing the ballot, an inner envelope to place the ballot, and an outer envelope addressed to the local election official with postage guaranteed. Rausch said mailing every active, registered voter a ballot without the need for an application process would have removed unnecessary barriers for residents.

“An op-in vote-by-mail system creates additional bureaucracy for our clerks to manage. Automatic vote-by-mail is administratively simpler and more efficient,” she said during the session. “But we will not be adopting this policy today. And it’s important to say why. Our chief elections official

simply will not make it happen.”

Galvin’s office declined to comment on Rausch’s statements.

MassVOTE Executive Director Cheryl Clyburn Crawford said while the organization is disappointed that voters will not automatically receive ballots this fall, they applauded the Senate for passing the legislation.

“This fall’s elections will undoubtedly prove challenging. Nevertheless, we believe the Senate bill passed today will provide local election officials the tools they need to run our elections this fall, while allowing voters to cast their ballot in a safe, secure manner,” she wrote in a statement. “With COVID19 impacting all sectors of society, from public health to the economy, voters deserve to face the least amount of burdens as possible when voting this fall.”

Citing the financial impact the Senate’s bill would have on municipalities for early voting and other measures, Tarr sought to “affirm our obligation to compensate cities and towns for the cost we are imposing on them” through an amendment guaranteeing prompt reimbursement. That amendment was rejected without further debate.

At the start of Tuesday’s session, Majority Leader Cindy Creem said the Senate took care to avoid “lofty ideas that could never be adopted in a timely manner,” pointing to the new technology deployed by the Iowa caucuses earlier this year which ultimately turned into a boondoggle.

“Admirable goal, however for a host of reasons, the process failed. Our process today that we are voting on will not fail,” she said.

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# **New Bedford police seize \$130,000 in cocaine, fentanyl, and marijuana in two days**

New Bedford police detectives seized large quantities of fentanyl, cocaine, marijuana, more than \$18,000 in cash, and ammunition during three separate incidents in recent days.

On June 15, an investigation led to a traffic stop where Detectives seized 24 grams of cocaine. A subsequent search of 1276 Pleasant St. #1, led to 269 grams of cocaine with a street value of \$26,900 and \$6,504 in cash.

As a result, Jonathan Garcia, 30, 1276 Pleasant St. Apt. 1, was charged with trafficking, conspiracy, and a suspended license (subsequent). Jose Rivera De Leon, 25, 1276 Pleasant St., Apt. 1 was charged with trafficking, possession, conspiracy, a suspended license, and traffic violations. Detective Lavar Gilbert investigated the case.





1276 Pleasant St in New Bedford, MA

During a search of 52 Willard St., Apt. 2 on June 12, police discovered 528 grams of fentanyl with a street value of \$52,000, 21 rounds of 9mm ammunition, and \$350 in cash. As a result, Lino R. Simoes, 46, 52 Willard St., Apt. 2, was charged with trafficking, possession to distribute, and ammunition without an FID card. Simoes does not possess a license to carry a firearm and was previously convicted of trafficking. Detective Timothy Soares led the investigation.

Also on June 12, searches at Rosalinda's Fashion, 104 Allen St. and 98 Allen St., Apt. 2 resulted in the seizure of 512 grams with a street value of \$51,200 of cocaine, 3.5lbs of marijuana, paraphernalia and \$12,194 in cash. Jose E. Nieves, 45, 98 Allen St. Apt. #2M, was charged with trafficking and possession to distribute. Detective Timothy Soares Detective and Detective Kevin Barbosa led the investigation.

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.

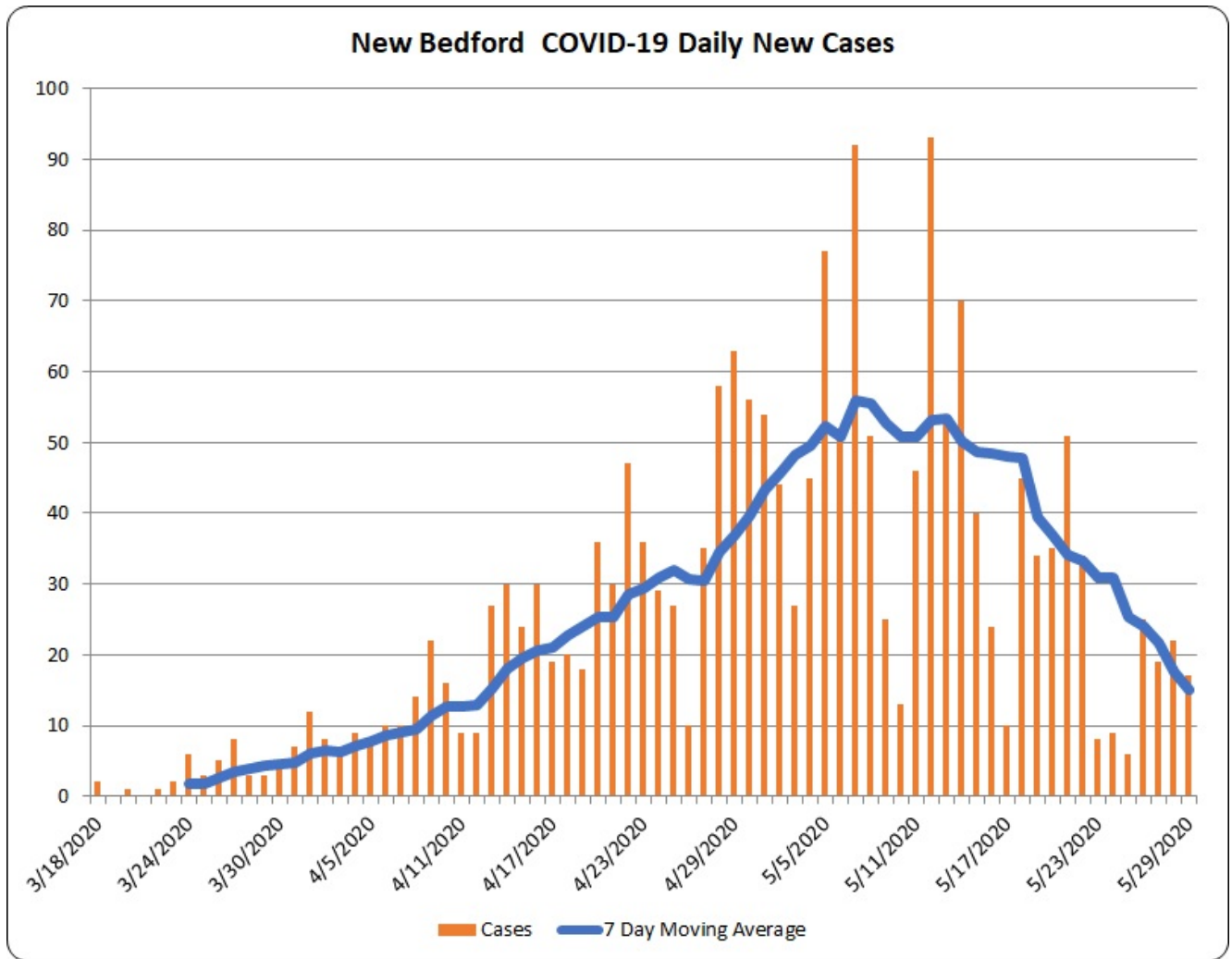
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## **New Bedford's coronavirus cases continue to drop as city approaches 100 COVID-19 deaths**

New Bedford health officials reported a recent low of three new COVID-19 cases but did report one additional COVID-19 related death on Tuesday, 12 new deaths since last Friday, raising the total to 97 in the city.

Mayor Jon Mitchell's office reported three additional confirmed COVID-19 cases in New Bedford on Tuesday, bringing the total positive cases in the city to 2,069, **up from 2,066 on Monday.**

According to New Bedford health officials, Hispanics/Latinos are 20% of New Bedford's population but account for 45.5% of the COVID-19 cases in the city. New Bedford's white population was 67.2% of the city and accounted for 28.1% of the COVID-19 cases. Full details **here.**



Fall River has not seen more positive cases of COVID-19 for the first time since early in the pandemic. Full details [here](#).

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# New push in Massachusetts to fight mosquito-borne illnesses

By Katie Lannan  
State House News Service

Gearing up for what's expected to be another active summer for

mosquito-borne illness in Massachusetts, a recently passed Senate bill looks to update the state's approach to mosquito control.

The bill is based on legislation Gov. Charlie Baker filed in April and would give the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board new powers to fight mosquito-borne illnesses like West Nile Virus and Eastern equine encephalitis when the Department of Public Health determines there is an elevated risk.

It would also create a task force to recommend reforms aimed at creating a "twenty-first century" approach to mosquito control, a measure not included in Baker's original bill.

In his filing letter, Baker wrote that the "current framework for mosquito control dates to the 1970s and does not allow for the sort of coordinated statewide efforts that are necessary to prevent and combat these viruses and the mosquitoes that carry them."

"Many cities and towns have not joined a mosquito control project," Baker wrote. "In these parts of the Commonwealth, there is no entity – state, regional or local – that can engage in mosquito control. While a town by town approach does allow for maximum local input into mosquito control, unfortunately mosquitos and viruses do not respect borders."

Baker said he filed the bill after the state last year "experienced unprecedented levels of EEE prevalence, illness, and deaths." Public health officials reported 12 human cases of EEE in Massachusetts last year, and six people died from the virus.

EEE is a rare but potentially serious disease, and its activity is cyclical.

Massachusetts tends to experience two to three years of "intense activity," including human cases, followed by a

slower period, state public health veterinarian Dr. Catherine Brown said last August. Brown said particular swamps that Massachusetts has in high concentration make up "the exact right type of habitat to support the ecology that EEE occurs in."

Last year's EEE activity also indicated a geographic expansion beyond the typical clusters in Bristol and Plymouth counties, where such swamps are more prevalent.

"Last year was number one in a new cycle, and it spread to the Metrowest, it spread to Central Mass, it spread all the way west of Worcester, and the experts predict for this to continue to change with climate change," Senate President Karen Spilka said in an interview. "And this was a warm winter ... so the prediction is, this summer could be a very bad year for EEE, so we need to get ahead of it so we literally prevent deaths."

Spilka said the bill "lays out a comprehensive strategy to combat mosquitoes spreading EEE" and will make sure the Department of Public Health is able to work with local communities.

The push to update mosquito control practices comes as the Department of Public Health is embroiled in efforts to stem the toll of the COVID-19 pandemic in Massachusetts.

The Senate passed its bill (S 2757) on Thursday, sending it to the House for potential action.

Introducing the bill to his colleagues, Senate Ways and Means Chairman Michael Rodrigues described it as time-sensitive and said it would address the current "ineffective patchwork approach to airborne insects."

Rodrigues, a Westport Democrat, said the bill would require the mosquito control board to provide notice before conducting aerial spraying and would let cities and towns opt out of

spraying, as long as they have an alternative mosquito management plan approved by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

Baker in his filing letter and Rodrigues on the Senate floor both said that mosquitoes kill more people worldwide than any other animal.

Rodrigues said the bill's provisions would sunset at the end of 2022, in recognition of the virus' cyclical nature.

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## **United Way of Greater New Bedford's "Live United Celebration" announces community awards**

Each year, United Way of Greater New Bedford hosts the Live United Celebration to honor community members, organizations, and businesses that have supported its work in the areas of health, education, financial stability, and basic needs. The celebration was held virtually on June 4th with an award announcement every half hour.

"This year looked a lot different than traditional Live United Celebrations," said Michelle N. Hantman, President & CEO. "But the reasons to celebrate our honorees are the same – they have supported United Way in a big way over the past year and we are truly thankful for their continued support of our work whether it is through giving, advocating, or volunteering."

**Acushnet Company** received multiple awards including the

Navigator Award, Rockefeller Award and the Corporate Excellence Award for their commitment and contributions to United Way over the past year. BankFive, BayCoast Bank, City of New Bedford, Eversource, and Lockheed Martin also received the Rockefeller Award for their successful workplace campaigns and corporate contributions.

**Southcoast Health** was awarded the Community Spirit Award for their partnership, volunteerism, and ongoing commitment to keeping the region healthy and safe. Over the past year, they have been committed to further engaging their employees in the community and partnering with United Way to make a deeper impact.

**Black Tie Cookies and Marlissa Briggett of South Coast Almanac** received Live United awards for demonstrating what it means to Live United by giving, advocating, and volunteering throughout the year.

**Our Sisters' School** was awarded the Spirit of Volunteerism Award for sharing their time with United Way and other community organizations throughout the year. United Way also honored Vermette Development with the Holiday Spirit Award for raising money for families through the Holiday Wishes program with Fun 107 and United Way.

**Sid Wainer & Son** was honored with the Hunger Heroes Award for their continuous year round support of United Way's hunger relief initiatives. Their partnership and commitment to the SouthCoast has grown in the past few months when they were awarded a USDA grant to provide 30,000 fresh produce boxes to residents for free from May – August.

**The Greater New Bedford Community Health Center** received the Community Partner Award. Over the past year, they have been an important United Way partner to ensure vulnerable populations are getting the services they need.

In addition to the corporate awards, United Way honored

several individuals for their commitment to United Way and its mission. Maegan Powers was awarded the Women United Outstanding Leadership Award for her outstanding leadership, dedication and commitment to United Way's Women United Initiatives. Chelsey Puza was awarded with the Spirit of Giving Award for donating her time and talent to raise money for United Way's Help United Fund by capturing this unique point in time for families through The Front Steps Project. And Vernon Miles of Milestone Mortgage Solutions was awarded the Community Champion Award for his generous, longstanding support of United Way of Greater New Bedford and many other local community organizations. This year, Milestone innovated by creating a strategic and effective philanthropic approach to support several area nonprofits.

Other volunteers recognized at the event included Loaned Executives, Campaign Cabinet, and this year's Campaign Chair, Bill Eccles, Jr.

"I was honored and proud to serve as the 2019 United Way of Greater New Bedford Campaign Chair. We had a dedicated campaign cabinet, that worked together and achieved success through a team effort," said Eccles, President of BankFive. "Thank you to the campaign cabinet, United Way staff, and the SouthCoast community who have provided their leadership, numerous volunteer hours, and donations to help support United Way's programs."

The Live United Celebration was sponsored by BankFive, Bristol County Savings Bank, and Coastal Financial.

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*United Way of Greater New Bedford is a non-profit organization that was established in 1953. United Way brings together volunteers, community leaders, and corporate partners to provide quality programs and initiatives that achieve positive*



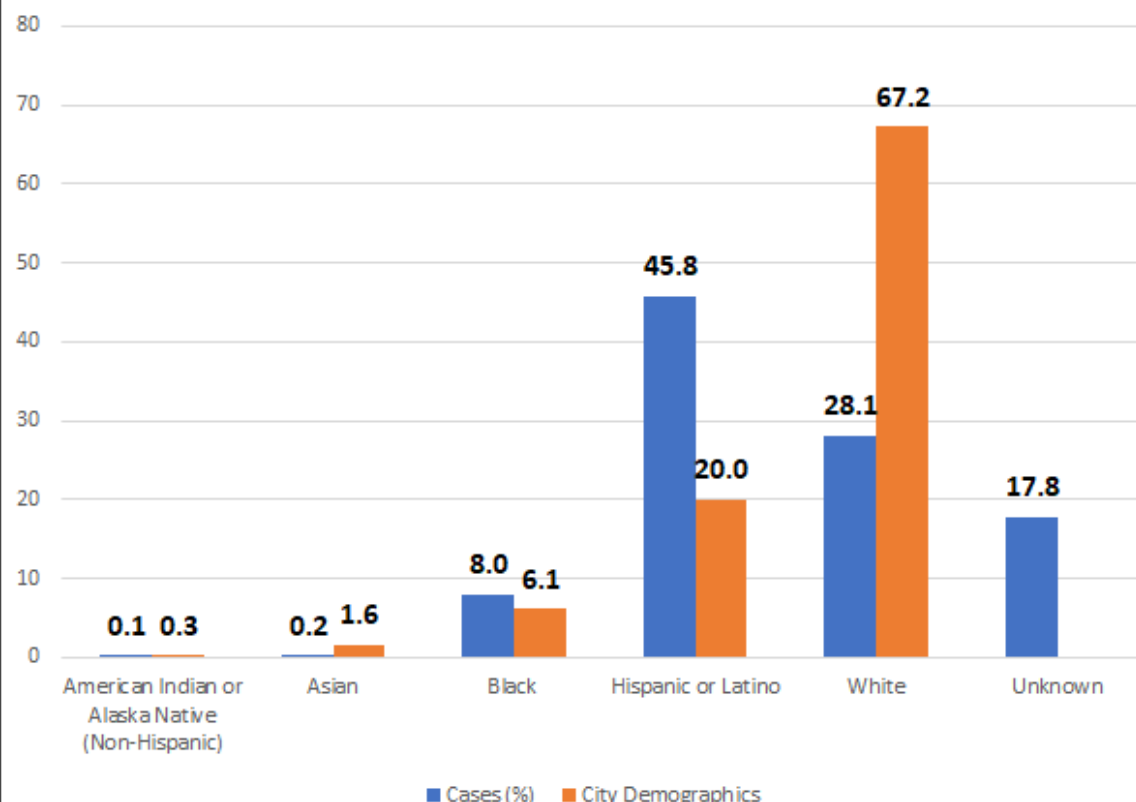
*results. Its service area, which has a population in excess of 197,000, includes the City of New Bedford and surrounding towns of Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, Marion, Mattapoisett, Rochester and Wareham.*

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## **Hispanic/Latino community account for nearly half of New Bedford's COVID-19 cases**

According to New Bedford health officials, Hispanics/Latinos are 20% of New Bedford's population but account for 45.5% of the COVID-19 cases in the city. New Bedford's white population was 67.2% of the city and accounted for 28.1% of the COVID-19 cases. This chart was made available on the City of New Bedford's website:

### New Bedford Race/Ethnicity Breakdown (Percent of COVID-19 Cases Compared To Percent of City Population)



City of New Bedford data.

While COVID-19 cases have been declining for weeks, the related deaths remain at a high. New Bedford health officials Monday reported six additional COVID-19 related deaths since Saturday, 11 new deaths since Friday, raising the total to 96 in the city. Mayor Jon Mitchell's office reported 20 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases in New Bedford on Monday, bringing the total positive cases in the city to 2,066, up from 2,046 on Saturday. New Bedford health officials do not report COVID-19 numbers on Sundays.

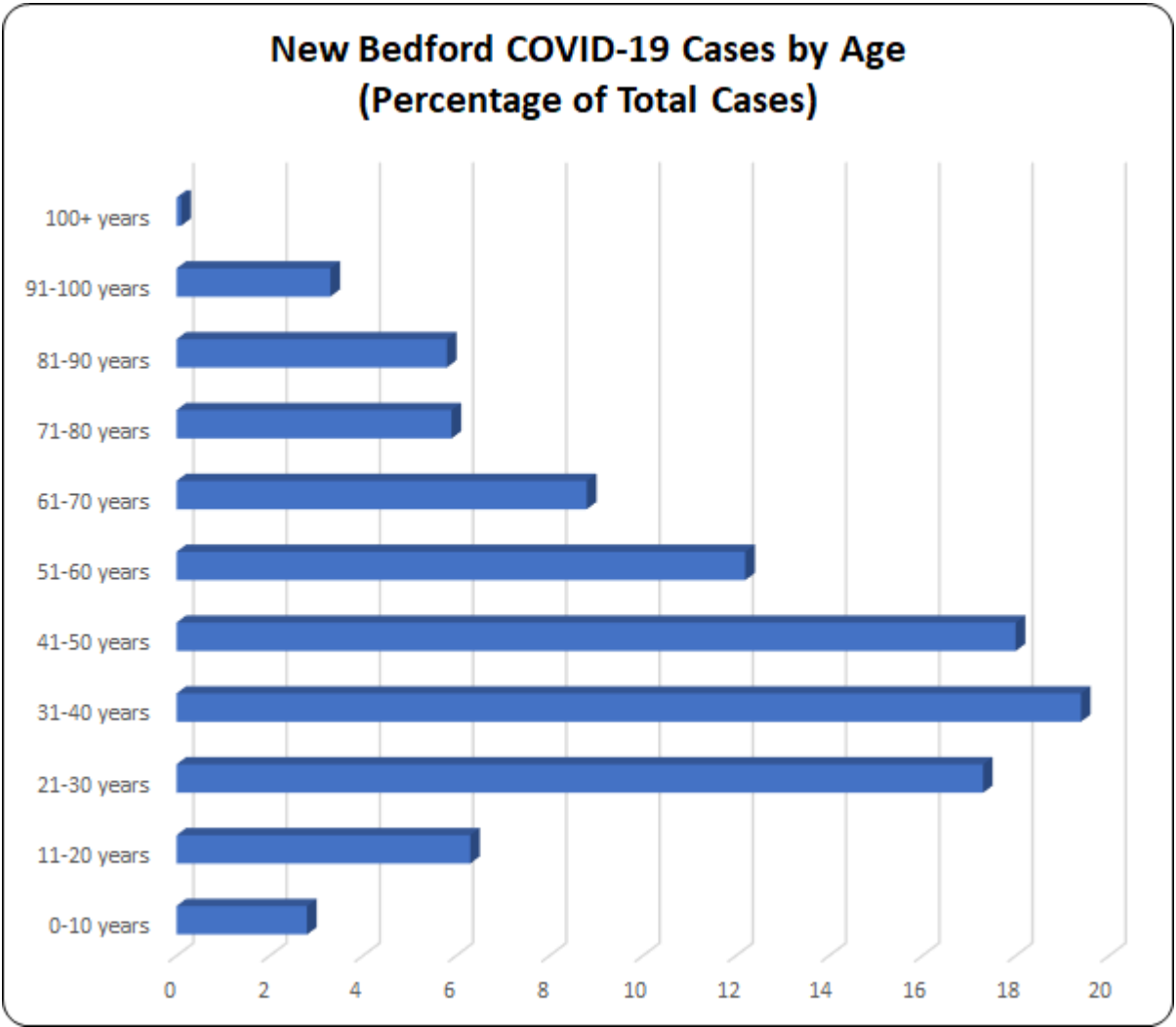
At the time of this writing, the New Bedford mayor's office did not have any analysis of why the Hispanic community was disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus.

Web MD did provide analysis on **"Why are Minorities Hardest Hit by CIVID-19?"**:

*“We found that there were large disparities in the proportion of people at risk of COVID-19 from minority and low-income populations,” said study co-author Julia Raifman. She’s an assistant professor of health law, policy, and management at the Boston University School of Public Health.*

*Raifman believes decades of disparities in education, housing, jobs, and stress levels have contributed to an excess risk of chronic disease based on race, ethnicity, and income. And those same issues are exacerbating the COVID-19 crisis.*

Other New Bedford coronavirus data:



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# Massachusetts Environmental Police seize black sea bass catch in Wareham

On Sunday, June 14, 2020, Massachusetts Environmental Police Officers responded to the Stop and Shop plaza in Wareham in response to a report of a small boat trailered and several individuals loading coolers into nearby vehicles.

A subsequent fisheries inspection of the vessel and vehicles showed the individuals to be in possession of 84 black sea bass over the legal limit, 17 of which were undersized.

Several citations with monetary fines were issued, the catch was seized and donated to the Wampanoag Tribal Food Pantry in Mashpee.