

# Wareham Police arrest man for distributing fentanyl and crack cocaine from his apartment

In an early-morning raid by Wareham Police detectives and patrol officers, assisted by New Bedford Police detectives and Massachusetts State Police troopers assigned to the Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section, 30-year old Khyron Thompson of West Wareham, was arrested and charged with possession with intent to distribute a Class "A" drug, subsequent offense, and possession with intent to distribute a Class "B" drug, subsequent offense. In addition, he also had an active warrant from the New Bedford District Court.

Detectives executed the search warrant on Friday, February 21, after investigating illegal narcotic sales from an apartment in Building C, Cranberry Manor apartments, 2220 Cranberry Highway. During the raid detectives confiscated suspected fentanyl and crack cocaine, a quantity of cash, a digital scale and assorted baggies.

Mr. Thompson was held at Wareham Police headquarters and later transported to Wareham District Court.

Fentanyl is responsible for 93% of all overdose deaths in Massachusetts.

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# **New Bedford police officers arrest two previously convicted drug dealers on fentanyl charges**

New Bedford Narcotics detectives made two drug-related arrests yesterday as a result of separate searches in New Bedford.

Approximately 50 grams of fentanyl and more than \$5,000 was seized at 520 Coggeshall St #3. As a result, Brian Konstantakos, 26, was arrested and charged with possession and trafficking in fentanyl. It is a subsequent offense; Konstantakos was convicted of dealing cocaine in 2019 in New Bedford.

A search of 51 County St. #3 yielded fentanyl and 96 tabs of Percocet, digital scales, packaging materials and \$628 in cash. Arrested was Nicky Ortiz, 37, who was charged with distribution, possession, trafficking, and conspiracy to violate drug law. Ortiz currently has seven open cases in New Bedford District Court and has a prior drug conviction.

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## **Taunton Man Who Forced His Way Into Neighbor's Bathroom**

# Sentenced to Jail Time

A 30-year-old Taunton man who unlawfully entered his neighbor's apartment, got undressed and attempted to force his way into the female victim's bathroom while she was showering was convicted of two charges during a bench trial in Taunton District Court earlier this month, Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced.

Christopher Blake was convicted by Judge Neil Hourihan on February 6 of Breaking and Entering into a Building at Night for a Felony and Assault and Battery on a Police Officer. He was immediately sentenced to serve two years in the Bristol County House of Corrections, followed by two years of supervised probation.

On June 22, 2019 at approximately 11pm, the female victim was in the shower when she heard a knock on the bathroom door. The victim testified during the trial that she assumed her 4 year old son was knocking, so she called out to him but did not hear an answer. The victim testified that she then heard knocking more aggressively and observed the door shaking. The victim then asked who it was and heard a male's voice. Fearful, the victim got out of the shower and held herself against the door, but was unable to stop the defendant from pushing the door open. Once the door was opened, the victim immediately recognized the defendant as her neighbor. He was standing in front of her in just his underwear, with the rest of his clothing on the floor. After being confronted by another member of the victim's family, the defendant fled the apartment in his underwear.

Police were immediately contacted and when they arrived at the victims' apartment, they observed the defendant's clothing on the victim's floor. Police then walked to the defendant's apartment, where they find him to be intoxicated and uncooperative. The defendant attempted to slam the door shut

and struck one police officer in the shoulder before being placed under arrest.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Czapiga.

“The facts of this case are very disturbing. Fortunately, the victim was not harmed. I am pleased that the court took the defendant’s conduct seriously and imposed the maximum sentence,” District Attorney Quinn said.

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## **Bristol County Sheriff’s Office trains New Bedford Fire Department’s first dog; Six canines certified in fentanyl detection**

Friday marked a big first for the New Bedford Fire Department.

Deputy Chief Scott Kruger officially welcomed Kona, an 8-month-old black lab who is the partner of city firefighter Scott Rebello, to the team Friday during a ceremony to celebrate the graduates of the Bristol County Sheriff’s Office canine academy.

“This is a very proud day for the New Bedford Fire Department,” Deputy Chief Kruger said at Friday’s ceremony. “Through Travis’ hard work, Kona will be the department’s first four-legged first responder.”



*New Bedford Firefighter Travis Rebello and his partner, Kona, are the NBFD's first canine team.*

In addition to his post as a city firefighter, Rebello is also on regional and state hazmat teams, which led him to come up with the idea for Kona. After training for months with BCSO Capt. Paul Douglas, Kona is certified in detecting fentanyl and certain chemical and biological agents that can be used in weapons. Kona is only the second working dog in the country that can detect these certain hazmat materials, the other being in Los Angeles.

"In the world we live in today, you can be reactive or proactive, and we're going to protect our people," Deputy Chief Kruger said at the ceremony.

Kruger said Rebello and Kona will be on duty during big events in the region, including the New Bedford Half Marathon, Day of Portugal festivities and the annual Portuguese Feast.

Joining Rebello and Kona among the graduates of the K9 academy were four members of the Sheriff's Office and one from the

Fall River Police Department, all of which are now certified in detecting fentanyl. Completing the program were Capt. Douglas and K9 Rony, BCSO Officer Mike Bettencourt and K9 Kofy, BCSO Officer William Dillingham and K9 Shapry, BCSO K9 Officer Scott Robbins and K9 Jerry, and Fall River Police Department Det. Gary Barboza and K9 Capone.



*From left, New Bedford Firefighter Travis Rebello, BCSO Capt. Paul Douglas and Nbfd Deputy Chief Scott Kruger smile for the camera after Rebello's graduation.*

In addition to fentanyl detection, Bettencourt and Kofy, a 75-pound German Malinois who will be turning 3 in May, finished the entire narcotics academy that includes heroin, cocaine, meth, suboxone and other illegal drugs.

Friday's ceremony was the latest honor for the Bristol County Sheriff's Office K9 training group. With the addition of Rebello, the group now consists of members from the New Bedford Police and Fire Departments as well as Fall River and Somerset PDs.

"I'm very proud of this canine unit," Bristol County Sheriff Thomas M. Hodgson said during Friday's graduation ceremony at the Sheriff's Office in Dartmouth. "This unit is all about teamwork and building partnerships to enhance public safety."

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## **New Bedford cold weather overflow shelter open tonight, February 21**

Due to the frigid temperatures expected through the evening, the overflow will be opened tonight. All inquiries can be forwarded to Sister Rose House and 1-800-homeless.

All guests should plan to arrive for 6:00pm and the cutoff time will be 8:30pm. Dinner will be served between 6:00pm and 7:30pm and we wrap up between 9:45pm and 10pm.

As a reminder, the overflow will be activated on nights that the temperature is expected to be at 28 degrees or less. If the temperature were to drop below 28 at 4 or 5:00am rather than 7 or 8:00pm as an example, it doesn't ensure that the overflow would open. All guests are expected to get up at 5:00 am and exit the premises by 6 or 7:00am.

Also, precipitation or snow alone doesn't ensure that the overflow will open but are taken into consideration coupled with the temperatures. We also view the feel like temps, so as an example if the temperature was expected to be at 30 degrees but the wind-chill coupled with rain or snow presents or "feels like" 25 degrees then the overflow would be activated.

Every year we always have grey area days but we do the best in

our judgment to make the right call. On days that we are expected to open an email blast will be sent by 12pm.

Also, 1-800-homeless will notify any callers if the overflow will be open on expected days. This will be our 4th season and with all the challenges at any given time, we are hopeful to continue safe operations and save lives, especially on the coldest nights. We also are looking for extra help, especially if the number of guests expected on any given night reaches 30. We also have 25 guests on the main floor so manpower is very important.

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## **Dominican National Sentenced in Boston for Fentanyl Trafficking and Aggravated Identity Theft**

A Dominican national was sentenced yesterday in federal court in Boston for fentanyl trafficking and using the Social Security number of a U.S. citizen to obtain a driver's license.

Santo Patricio Lugo Santos, 43, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Richard G. Stearns to 72 months in prison. Lugo Santos will be subject to deportation upon completion of his sentence. In October 2019, Lugo Santos pleaded guilty to two counts of distribution of and possession with intent to distribute more than 40 grams of fentanyl, one count of false representation of a Social Security number, and one count of aggravated identity theft. Lugo Santos has been in custody since his arrest on Feb. 14, 2019.



According to charging documents, Lugo Santos made two sales of fentanyl to a cooperating witness in October 2016 and January 2017. Additionally, in July 2018, he used the Social Security number of a U.S. citizen to obtain a Massachusetts driver's license.

United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling and Joseph R. Bonavolonta, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Field Division, made the announcement today. The case was investigated by the OCDETF Strike Force with assistance from the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office and the Boston Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen W. Hassink of Lelling's Narcotics and Money Laundering Unit is prosecuting the case.

The operation was conducted by a multi-agency task force through the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF), a partnership between federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. The principal mission of the OCDETF program is to identify, disrupt and dismantle the most serious drug trafficking, weapons trafficking and money laundering organizations, and those primarily responsible for the nation's illegal drug supply. More information on the OCDETF program is available here: <https://www.justice.gov/ocdetf/about-ocdetf>.

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## **New Bedford resident fed up with late night rummagers who leaves a mess**

"I live in the west end off of Union Street, New Bedford about 7 blocks down from Buttonwood Park on a quiet little street.

Myself, my son, and my dog were woken up last night at midnight then again around 1:00 am by garbage pickers.

They know when our trash days are and come in the night to rummage through everything! They are extremely loud and leave our barrels a mess. Last night my son was scared because it sounded like they were breaking into the house.

My neighbors and I have also been fined by the city for our garbage being a mess and having garbage in the recycling but it's really not our fault.

Has anyone else had a similar situation? It is getting frustrating ?"-Kayla.

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## **Faces Of New Bedford #235: Robyn Miranda**



Meet Robyn Miranda, 36-year-old artist and owner of Salty Lips Studio in New Bedford.

Robyn graduated from Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech in 2001 specializing in Architectural Drafting. She attended Boston Architectural College where the rigid structure left her wanting to explore other creative outlets so she decided to take up something new and tried out modeling. Immediately, she found herself enjoying the creative freedom and having her photos make their way to printed publications. This pushed her to want to play a bigger role in the local modeling community.

Robyn's experiences with modeling at other studios left her desiring a space that was female-owned and more inviting than places she had previously done work at. With the help of her husband Luke, her high school sweetheart and local fisherman, she sought out a location where she could open a studio space of her own. After checking out many locations with no luck they found a spot in the South End of New Bedford in an old mill that was transformed for studio space and in April 2019, Salty Lips Studio was created.

The studio space has given her the freedom to explore different creative outlets such as painting, building eye-catching sets for photoshoots and even picking up a camera herself and shooting boudoir photos. The studio has also allowed her to build a large group of artists, models, hairstylists, makeup and special effects artists who utilize her space to work on projects, network and hang out without worrying about their safety.

Robyn hopes to keep building on the successes she's had in her first year at Salty Lips Studio, continuing with the wide variety of group photoshoots and renting out her studio for other creatives who need a large, well lit safe space to create their artistic visions.

"When I was looking for space, I only searched in New Bedford knowing I'd find the look I had visioned here. The New Bedford creative community is all very supportive, and want each other to thrive. As much as we all want to be popular, rich and

famous, it's really about being happy and creating what you want and I think New Bedford is a good place where you can live that."

You can follow her work at <https://www.facebook.com/RobynScreams/> and her studio at <https://www.facebook.com/SaltyLipsStudio/>.

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*Faces of New Bedford is a New Bedford Guide project being undertaken by Josh Souza. If you'd like to nominate someone or ask a question you can inquire with him through email at [josh@newbedfordguide.com](mailto:josh@newbedfordguide.com).*

Faces of New Bedford began as a project by Colton Simmons. You can find Colton on Instagram: <https://instagram.com/simmonscolton>.

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## **Massachusetts State Trooper Dragged During Motor Vehicle Stop**

Yesterday at approximately 4 p.m. a Trooper assigned to State Police-Belchertown conducted a motor vehicle stop on a 2009 Nissan Altima for a license plate violation while traveling on Route 32 southbound in Ware.

After speaking to the stopped operator, the Trooper identified him as JOSEPH HURLBURT, 24, of Enfield, Conn., and determined that he had multiple warrants for his arrest.

The Trooper attempted to remove HURLBURT from the vehicle. As he did so, HURLBURT began to drive forward and accelerated at a high rate of speed. The vehicle dragged the Trooper approximately 30 feet before coming to an abrupt stop, causing him to fall.

HURLBURT then fled the scene on Route 32 toward Palmer. The Trooper was not injured in the incident.

State Police broadcast a Be On the LookOut (BOL0) statewide for the suspect and vehicle. Members of the Ware Police Department located HURLBURT at approximately 2 a.m. today and placed him under arrest for the active warrants along with additional charges filed by their department.

A summons is being forwarded to Eastern Hampshire District Court for the following offenses:

1. Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle;
2. A&B Dangerous Weapon;
3. Failure to Stop for Police;
4. Resisting Arrest;
5. Interfering with a Police Officer;
6. Number Plate Violation; and
7. Marked Lanes Violation.

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**Massachusetts legislators  
considering traffic law  
violation cameras at**

# intersections

By Colin A. Young, State House News Service

Drivers might think twice about gunning it through an intersection when the light has just turned red if a bill the Massachusetts Senate plans to debate next week becomes law.

Under a bill (S 2553) scheduled for a vote next Thursday when the Senate meets in its next formal session, cities and towns across Massachusetts could decide to install automated road safety camera systems to identify and then photograph vehicles that commit any number of traffic law violations at intersections.

The camera systems could look for vehicles that fail to stop at a red light, cars traveling at least five miles an hour above the posted speed limit, vehicles making a right turn at a red light where prohibited, and cars blocking an intersection or bus lane. Drivers who put the pedal down when they see a yellow light, however, would be safe – the bill declares that it would not be a violation “if any part of the vehicle was over the stop line when the light was yellow.”

If caught by a camera, the vehicle owner could be hit with a fine of up to \$25 under the bill, which was originally filed by Sen. William Brownsberger and redrafted by the Ways and Means Committee.

The person to whom the offending vehicle is registered would be liable for the violation, regardless of whether that person was driving the vehicle at the time, but camera enforced violations would not be made part of the owner’s driving record and would not count towards determining car insurance surcharges.

Exemptions would be made for cases in which the violation was necessary to get out of the way for an emergency vehicle, cars

that are part of funeral processions or if the car is reported as stolen.

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), 890 people were killed in 2017 in crashes that involved a vehicle running a red light and another 132,000 people were injured in red-light-running crashes. The group said a 2003 analysis of red light violation data from 19 intersections in four states without red light cameras found a red light violation rate of 3.2 per hour per intersection.

The idea of automated traffic and speed enforcement has surfaced on Beacon Hill before, most recently as part of a 2017-18 road safety bill. At the time, Brownsberger wrote that traffic enforcement cameras “could substantially reduce accidents,” but said the political will has not existed to tackle the issue.

“Most of us are accustomed to making personal decisions about whether or not we can or should attempt to get away with a close push on a red light or a speed five or ten miles per hour above the speed limit. The fact is that police resources are very limited and millions of traffic violations go undetected or ignored every day on the roads of the Commonwealth,” Brownsberger wrote on his website.

Brownsberger wrote that license plate reading technology has advanced to be “quite reliable” and that finances should not be a barrier since the fines would cover the costs of installing and operating the cameras.

“The barriers are legal and political. Implementation of automated enforcement requires state legislation to define a new procedure for attaching fines to violations,” he wrote on his website. “The legal problem is that, in the absence of an officer pulling someone over, it is impossible to know who was driving the vehicle. So, we would have to hold the vehicle owner responsible, but there is no...mechanism to do that for

moving violations.”

Concern also exists among lawmakers about the potential for over-enforcement and an expansion of the data that the government collects, he wrote.

The bill the Senate is expected to debate next week would limit cities and towns to no more than one traffic camera for every 2,500 residents and would require that the locations of the cameras be approved by the city manager, mayor or board of selectmen after a public hearing on the proposal. The municipality would also have to post an unobstructed sign notifying drivers at each intersection that a camera is in use.

The cameras would be prohibited from taking “a frontal view photograph of a motor vehicle committing a camera enforceable violation” and the bill directs municipalities to make additional efforts “to ensure that photographs produced by an automated road safety camera system do not identify the vehicle operator, the passengers or the contents of the vehicle.” Photographs would be destroyed within 48 hours of the final disposition of the violation. The bill also spells out an appeals process.

The maximum fine that could be imposed for a camera enforceable violation would be \$25 and each municipality would only be allowed to collect as much money as is necessary to recover the costs of installing and operating the camera system. Any net revenue generated by the fines would be deposited into the statewide Transportation Trust Fund.

Senators have until 2 p.m. Monday to file proposed amendments to the bill, and the Senate is expected to debate it during a formal session next Thursday. The Senate on Thursday morning also prepared two other bills for consideration next week.

One bill (S 2555) originally filed by Senate President Emerita Harriette Chandler and rewritten by the Ways and Means



Committee would direct the Department of Motor Vehicles to create a process for either a homeless person or an unaccompanied homeless minor to apply for a Massachusetts identification card using documentation from a homelessness service provider as proof of residency.

Another bill (S 2554) filed by Sen. John Keenan and redrafted by Ways and Means would replace the term "disabled person" with the phrase "person with a disability" throughout a chapter of the General Laws and change the name of the Disabled Persons Protection Commission to the Commission for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities.

It also updates language to clarify the independence and practices of the DPPC.