

Massachusetts State Police's Colonel Mason Issues Statement Following Sentencing of David Njuguna

Colonel Christopher Mason, Superintendent of the Massachusetts State Police, released the following statement in response to today's sentencing of DAVID NJUGUNA for causing the death of Trooper Thomas Clardy.

STATEMENT OF COLONEL MASON:

"First and foremost, we are painfully cognizant that no sentence can return Trooper Clardy to those who loved him and love him still. This loss can never be restored, and everyone who loved or worked with Tom would prefer that the law allow for a sentence much more commensurate with the taking of a life under these circumstances.

Nonetheless, we are aware of the sentencing guidelines prescribed by the law and we are grateful for the court's consideration of the severity of this offense. As we move forward, we continue to look toward and be guided by Tom's example as a family man and a Massachusetts State Trooper, and our thoughts and hearts are, as ever, with his loved ones."

—Colonel Christopher Mason.

HELP WANTED: City of New

Bedford Auditor's Office is hiring for a Management Analyst

PAY: \$59,841 – \$74,809

Oversees all transactional audits activities and conducts business process reviews; assists the City Auditor with assigned tasks; provides oversight of municipal systems and procedures relating to the fiscal administration of the City of New Bedford. Monitors departmental financial transactions for compliance with Mass General Laws. Prepares data for studies, reports and recommendations. Supervises, performs, assists subordinates in performing their duties including payroll, accounts payable and cash receipts processing.

Assures that assigned areas of responsibility are performed within budget; performs cost control activities; monitors revenue and expenditure in assigned area to assure sound fiscal control; prepares annual budget requests; assures effective and efficient use of budgeted funds, personnel, materials, facilities and time; assists in the preparation of the annual City budget, financial statements, Free Cash, and Tax Rate Recap.

Associate degree in accounting, finance, or a related discipline. At least three years of relevant experience in an auditing or accounting field, including two in municipal, State, or Federal government. Any equivalent combination of education and experience. Mandatory CORI (Criminal Offender Record Investigation) background check per City Council Ordinance effective May 14, 2013.

For application/complete job description, please visit www.newbedford-ma.gov. Applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate is found. New Bedford has a residency

Local police, US Marshalls, and Massachusetts State Police capture Massachusetts suspect wanted in connection with Atlanta homicide

Troopers assigned to the Massachusetts State Police Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section (MSP VFAS), along with Deputy United States Marshals and Springfield Police Officers, this morning arrested a suspect wanted for a drug-related shooting homicide in Atlanta in February. The suspect is the second arrested in Springfield in connection with the Atlanta homicide; in August MSP VFAS Troopers, Deputy Marshals, and SPD Officers arrested another suspect in the same homicide.

Yesterday, Atlanta Police detectives notified MSP that a warrant had been obtained for a second suspect, HARRISON JOSEPH OGBUNIZE, 34, who had ties to Springfield area. MSP VFAS Trooper Nelson Zayas initiated an investigation and identified an apartment at 8 Blake St. in Springfield as a possible location for OGBUNIZE. Shortly before 7 a.m. today, Trooper Zayas and other VFAS Troopers, along with the Springfield Police Warrant Apprehension Unit, members of a US Marshals Task Force, and other officers went to the Blake Street address and located OGBUNIZE. The suspect, who stands approximately 6'7" tall and weighs approximately 320 lbs., was arrested without incident as a fugitive from justice. He was

transported to Springfield Police station for booking and will be held pending rendition to Georgia.

The warrant from Fulton County, Ga., charges OGBUNIZE with the Feb. 17, 2019 shooting homicide of a 32-year-old male at an apartment building in Atlanta. MSP VFAS Troopers, Deputy US Marshals, and SPD Officers arrested another suspect from the homicide, JAMEL R. DAVIS, on August 6. DAVIS was located and arrested in the Indian Orchard neighborhood of Springfield.

New Bedford Police Department advises of road closures in downtown New Bedford

The New Bedford Police Department advises that William Street between Pleasant Street and Acushnet Avenue, as well as Purchase Street between Union Street and William Street, are closed to traffic Thursday and will remain closed through Thursday afternoon until further notice.

At approximately 9:57 a.m., New Bedford Fire, Police, and EMS were dispatched to the New Bedford campus of Bristol Community College, located at 800 Purchase Street, due to a report of an odor of an unidentified source. City and state officials, working with Bristol Community College staff, continue to investigate the site, which was evacuated this morning out of an abundance of caution.

The Police Department advises motorists to avoid the two blocks of William Street between Pleasant Street and Acushnet Avenue, and the block of Purchase Street between Union Street and William Street, for the remainder of Thursday afternoon

until further notice.

Massachusetts bill to ban cell phone use while driving passes Senate

Lawmakers have finally come to a compromise on a bill banning the use of cell-phones while driving – the Senate voted 38-1 in favor of the bill yesterday.

The legislation now heads to Republican Gov. Charlie Baker for his signature. Baker has expressed support for a ban on drivers using hand-held cellphones and filed a bill earlier this year. The bill, which had been stalling time and again, has finally reached its final stages on its way to becoming law. Previously, the Massachusetts House and Senate had approved separate versions.

The bill will prohibit drivers from holding the cell phone at all but does allow hands-free phones. Specifically, that means you cannot send a text or look at a text, peer at videos or images or scroll your social media accounts. Sadly, in a day and age where one would think common sense would dictate not doing those things, however, the practice is almost ubiquitous.

The exceptions are for medical emergencies, reporting accidents, calling the police or using a navigation system that is *mounted*.

90 days after it is signed into law, the police may begin to cite drivers but until March 31, 2020, they must first give

the offending driver a warning. Thereafter, a fine of \$100 will then be levied on first-time offenders, \$250 for the second offense, \$500 for the third and subsequent offenses.

Once a person is a habitual offender – the third offense – insurance companies may begin to charge extra on their policies so users will begin to take a serious hit to the wallet, or purse.

One of the reasons that the bill hadn't be approved when it was initially introduced was that legislators wanted to ensure that the law would not lead to more racial profiling by coming up with a way to collect data on the race of drivers. Statistically, black drivers are pulled over more than white drivers are. The disagreement on how to exactly collect that data led to the delays and postponement of the bill's approval.

With the new bill, if police write a ticket they will also have to track the race, gender, and age of the offender and the Registry of Motor Vehicles would send that data to the Massachusetts Secretary of Public Safety and Security. From there, an independent agency would analyze it and issue an annual public report. In addition, the state would hold tri-annual hearings to present that analysis to the public.

If the analysis indicates a police department is racial profiling, that department would have to receive "implicit bias training" and be placed under further scrutiny in the form of collecting data for an entire year about each and every traffic stop, whether a citation was given or not.

Massachusetts State Police “No Shave November” to Support Cops for Kids with Cancer

The State Police Fleet Section during the month of November has been participating in “No Shave November” to raise funds and support Cops for Kids with Cancer, in memory of State Police Detective Lieutenant Bill “Ironman” Coulter.

Please consider going to copsforkidswithcancer.org/donation-massachusetts-police-department-2019/ to make a donation.

Several local departments are also participating. To see total donations, go to <https://copsforkidswithcancer.org/no-shave-november-2019/>

Thank you for supporting a great cause, every little bit counts. The 5th Annual Cops for Kids with Cancer Fundraiser is tonight at 6:00pm-10:00pm.



Coalition for Animals of Greater New Bedford offers \$1,000 reward for man wanted on animal abuse charges

The following was posted to The Coalition for Animals of Greater New Bedford's Facebook page:

As part of its commitment to the humane treatment of animals, The Coalition for Animals of Greater New Bedford is issuing a \$1,000 reward for the apprehension and conviction of a New Bedford man wanted on animal cruelty charges after he was captured on video striking a dog.

Miguel A. Martinez, 42, of 472 Cottage St., New Bedford, is wanted on animal cruelty charges after an online video showed him striking a dog at his Cottage Street residence Oct. 9.

The dog and her puppies were taken from the home by New Bedford Police and transported to Tufts Veterinary Emergency Treatment & Specialties, where tests indicated they were not injured in the attack.

"This kind of treatment of an innocent animal is reprehensible," said Coalition President Lauren Stamatis. "Our Coalition works to protect the animals in our community and we are horrified by this blatant act of violence and abuse."

"We are offering this reward from our established Animal Abuse Reward Fund to encourage the public to keep their eyes out for

this individual, who needs to be brought to justice in the criminal court system,’’ she said.

Martinez also has pending drug trafficking charges against him.

Anyone with information about the whereabouts of Martinez is asked to call New Bedford Police Department tip line at (508) 961-4584.

The Coalition for Animals of Greater New Bedford is a non-profit composed of dedicated volunteer members and organizations working hard to promote the wellbeing of animals in our community. The Reward Fund is just one of many programs sponsored by the Coalition, all aimed at educating the public about animal-related issues, reducing pet overpopulation, and aiding local homeless animals.

If you are interested in donating to support the Coalition, please use the “Donate” button on their website and note which program (the Reward Fund, Spay and Neuter, etc.) you are seeking to support. For more information, please visit: www.coalitionforanimals.com

New Bedford Cocaine Trafficker Sentenced to A Decade in Prison

A 27-year-old New Bedford man was convicted last week in Fall River Superior Court of trafficking cocaine and illegally possessing a firearm, Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced.

Arcadio Navarro pleaded guilty to indictments charging him with trafficking in excess of 36 grams of cocaine, illegal possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony and illegal possession of a firearm without an FID Card.

On October 4, 2017, New Bedford Police lawfully obtained a court-authorized search warrant for the defendant's 262 Nash Road apartment. After obtaining the search warrant, New Bedford Police detectives set up surveillance at the apartment and witnessed the defendant and another male get into the defendant's rental car. When police tried to pull the car over, the defendant attempted to get away and struck two cruisers before stopping. Police found about nine grams of cocaine on the defendant's person at this time.

Once inside the apartment, police located a safe which contained more than one kilo of cocaine, a .357 Taurus Magnum revolver loaded with five rounds, more than \$7,500 in cash and a digital scale. The cash was forfeited.

Judge Thomas McGuire sentenced the defendant to serve seven to 12 years in state prison and placed him on probation for an additional two years.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney William Flynn.

"The defendant was reaping substantial profits from selling a large amount of cocaine. Once again, this is a defendant who is contributing to the drug problem that is plaguing our communities, especially our cities," District Attorney Quinn said.

Spotlight on Advanced Embroidery in Westport

Check out our spotlight on Advanced Embroidery at 85 Blossom Road in Westport. Call (508) 678-8993 or e-mail advandrea2013@gmail.com for a quote or more information.

UMass Dartmouth announces inaugural recipient of Hailey Angel Allard Nursing Scholarship

In May 2020, Keryann Estrela and her daughter, Hailey Angel Allard, 20, planned to graduate together from the UMass Dartmouth College of Nursing & Health Sciences – Estrela with a doctor of nursing practice degree and Allard with a bachelor of science.

Those plans were derailed in August 2018 when Hailey's car was hit by a speeding police cruiser as she was coming home from work, just a few hundred yards from her house. She had recently celebrated her 20th birthday.



The scholarship honors Hailey Allard of Somerset who passed away in 2018.

To honor the memory of Allard, her family, friends, and the UMass Dartmouth community worked together to create the Hailey Angel Allard Nursing Scholarship. The scholarship will be awarded annually to a nursing student based on financial need and a minimum 3.0 GPA with preference for residents of Bristol County.

Following an initial donation from Allard's family, students, faculty, and staff from the College of Nursing & Health Sciences held a color walk/run on April 28, 2019 to raise money for the scholarship.

More than 300 runners participated in the event that raised more than \$25,000 to fund the endowed scholarship. After the walk/run, a memorial service was held for Hailey, where her friends and mother shared their memories.

This fall, the first recipient of the Hailey Angel Allard Scholarship was awarded to Elyssa Tripp of Westport, MA, who hopes to become a maternity nurse. Tripp graduated from Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School

and is currently in her clinical rotation at St. Anne's Hospital in Fall River.

"In pursuing the nursing profession, it is my hope that my fellow UMassD nursing peers and I can represent the type of nurse Hailey would be: compassionate, courageous, and inspirational," said Tripp.

After the death of her daughter, Estrela is slated to complete her degree next spring. She has received strong support from her large family of eight siblings and her coworkers at Rhode Island Hospital's medical-surgical floor, where she is a nurse.

"I work with amazing people. I wouldn't be able to get here without their support and the support of the College of Nursing & Health Sciences. I've been blessed with friends and a great university that made this happen," Estrela said.

After she earns her degree, Estrela would love to create an acute care center of nurse practitioners who can treat a variety of specialties. She also plans to work to develop legislation that will establish guidelines for police cruisers when speeding to a crime scene.