

# Massachusetts State Police's Colonel Gilpin Announces Retirement Effective November 15

Colonel Kerry A. Gilpin, Superintendent of the Massachusetts State Police, today announced her retirement to members of the Department effective November 15. Below is a copy of her retirement announcement shared with the Department. Colonel Gilpin, 49, was named Superintendent/Colonel in November 2017 and has overseen the implementation of a wide slate of reforms and initiatives within the Department.

Secretary of Public Safety and Security Thomas Turco said: "Over the course of a distinguished 25-year career, Kerry Gilpin has committed herself to the most fundamental work of law enforcement: protecting the public, serving the community, and advancing the interests of justice inside and outside the Department of State Police. As colonel, she has implemented meaningful, lasting changes at every level of the Department, and I am grateful for her service and wish her the very best in her retirement."

Colonel Gilpin's retirement will be effective November 15.

Message of Colonel Gilpin to State Police Personnel:

Good morning,

Serving as the Colonel/Superintendent of the Massachusetts State Police has been the greatest honor of my professional life. Effective November 15, I will be retiring from the State Police after 25 years of service to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

I want to thank Governor Baker and Lieutenant Governor Polito for the trust they placed in me to lead this agency and to implement critically important operational and fiscal reforms.

The last two years have presented tremendous challenges for the Department. However, I believe that with great adversity comes great opportunity. We have accomplished so much during this difficult time, and I am confident that you will continue to build upon this foundation.

Over the last two years, I have made it a priority to support the men and women of this agency, increasing training opportunities, equipment and safety initiatives.

In addition, we have taken concrete steps to enhance the Department's responsiveness, transparency and accountability to the public we serve. Our State Police Detective Units are clearing cases at a rate well above the national average. We continue to play a leading role in removing fentanyl and heroin – the substances driving the opioid epidemic – from our streets. Relationships with our local, state and federal partners are stronger than ever. The rollout of Orion is scheduled to begin on November 17. Our body camera pilot program is complete and we will begin requesting proposals from vendors in the immediate future. With the steadfast support of the Baker-Polito administration, as well as the Legislature, we have graduated two academy classes and will soon commence the largest class ever to enter the State Police Academy. These, along with other critical initiatives, are well underway and will only strengthen our agency.

It remains deeply disheartening to me that a small number of our personnel chose to violate our principles and values. We have taken action to address their transgressions, conducting thorough and painstaking internal investigations as well as criminal investigations. I have been tremendously disappointed that some members of this remarkable organization have betrayed the public trust that so many of us worked so hard to

earn. I have been fully committed to restoring that trust to ensure that the actions of a few do not overshadow the reputation and hard work of the vast majority who conduct themselves with the utmost integrity every day.

During my tenure as Colonel, I have depended upon the assistance of the countless MSP employees, sworn and civilian, who serve our citizens selflessly and with unfailing integrity and honor, day after day. I want to commend and express my gratitude to each of the dedicated members who serve dutifully and heroically each day. Your efforts and sacrifice to ensure the safety of our Commonwealth and its citizens are greatly appreciated.

I urge you to remain focused on your continued efforts to earn and maintain the public's trust. There is work left to be done, but I am confident it will be accomplished by the many outstanding men and women who demonstrate a relentless commitment to our organization's mission.

Serving in this position has also provided me the indescribable privilege of meeting the families of many homicide victims and missing persons. Hearing their stories and observing their strength in the face of unimaginable pain – and seeing the faith they put in law enforcement to speak for, and seek justice for, their loved ones – has been a constant source of inspiration and strength.

I leave this job with the satisfaction of knowing that I gave it my heart and soul, under the most trying of circumstances. I am extremely proud of the progress and accomplishments we have made together. The Massachusetts State Police is composed of some of the best law enforcement personnel in the nation and I leave with the privilege of having worked alongside all of you.

In closing, I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to have served as your Colonel, humbled by your heroism,

commitment and dedication and will remain forever changed by this amazing experience.

---

## **Massachusetts public health officials announce third death from a vaping-associated lung injury**

A third person has died of a vaping-associated lung injury, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) announced today. The patient, a man in his 50s from Worcester County, reported vaping both nicotine and tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), an ingredient found in marijuana. The patient is among more than 200 suspected vaping-associated lung injury patients that have been reported to DPH since September when Massachusetts clinicians were mandated to report any unexplained lung injury in a patient with a history of vaping to the department.

Since the state began mandating the reporting of vaping-associated lung injuries on September 11, DPH has received 220 reports from clinicians of suspected vaping-associated lung injuries, 127 of which meet the criteria for investigation by DPH. Ninety-five investigations have been completed and 21 confirmed and 47 probable cases have been reported to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). DPH will report this third confirmed death from a vaping-associated lung injury to the CDC next week.

Last month, DPH reported the state's first two deaths from a vaping-associated lung injury, a woman in her 40s from Middlesex County and a woman in her 60s from Hampshire County,

both of whom vaped nicotine.

"My condolences go out to the family of this patient who has died from a vaping-associated lung injury," said Public Health Commissioner Monica Bharel, MD, MPH. "This disease is serious and potentially fatal and we are continuing to investigate the cause."

Governor Baker declared a public health emergency on September 24 and temporarily banned the sale of vaping products and devices, in response to the growing number of cases of severe lung injuries associated with the use of e-cigarettes and cannabis and nicotine vaping products in Massachusetts and nationally.

Massachusetts clinicians are asked to report to DPH any individual experiencing otherwise unexplained progressive symptoms of shortness of breath, fatigue, chest pain, cough, or weight loss, of any severity, and an abnormal chest imaging study, who also report vaping within 90 days before the onset of symptoms.

In an updated DPH clinical advisory sent this week to Massachusetts clinicians, those who identify a patient with vaping-associated lung injury should ask the patient to retain any vaping material including the device and any partially used vaping product. Patients determined to be confirmed or probable cases will be contacted to see if their products meet the criteria for testing by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Of the 68 Massachusetts confirmed or probable cases that have been reported to the CDC, 31 are male and 37 are female. Fifty percent are under the age of 30 and 50 percent are 30 or older. Thirty-one percent of the people vaped only nicotine, 38 percent vaped only THC, and 25 percent reported vaping nicotine and THC. DPH's online dashboard provides detailed information on vaping cases that DPH has reported to the CDC.

It is updated each Wednesday.

As a result of the vaping ban, the Commonwealth has implemented a statewide standing order for over-the-counter nicotine replacement products that allow adults to access products like gum, lozenges, and patches as a covered benefit through their insurance without requiring an individual prescription. The Massachusetts Smoker's Helpline (1-800-QUIT NOW) has doubled free over-the-counter nicotine replacement products from four weeks to eight weeks, once a person receives counseling by phone.

Individuals who are vaping are encouraged to call the Massachusetts Smokers' Helpline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW or visit [makingsmokinghistory.org](http://makingsmokinghistory.org) or [Mass.gov/QuitVaping](http://Mass.gov/QuitVaping) to connect to treatment.

---

## **New Bedford Woman Dies in Room Heater Fire After Towel Left on Heater Ignited**

New Bedford Fire Chief Paul N. Coderre Jr., New Bedford Police Chief Joseph C. Cordeiro, and State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey said the cause of the October 22, 2019 fire at 354 Coffin Avenue, New Bedford was accidental. The fire took the life of 85-year old Louise Barboza who lived in the 3-family home. She had placed a towel on top of a room gas heater that ignited. At the time the fire started, she was on the telephone with a relative and described what happened.

The New Bedford Fire Department, New Bedford Police Department, and State Police assigned to both the Office of

the State Fire Marshal and to the Office of the Bristol District Attorney jointly investigated this fire.

Acting Chief Cordeiro said, "We offer our condolences to the Barboza family who has lost a loved one in such a sad way." Firefighters rescued the woman but she later succumbed to her injuries at Rhode Island Hospital.

State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said, "Whether it is an electric space heater or an old time room gas heater, it is important to keep anything that can catch fire three feet away from them. This is a tragic example of what can happen when clothes are placed on a space heater to dry."

### **Space Heater Fires Not Frequent but Often Deadly**

One hundred thirty-six (136) space heater fires were reported to the Office of the State Fire Marshal between 2009 and 2018. While these fires are not frequent, they are deadly. One of every 68 space heater fires causes a fatality.

Between 2009 and 2018, space heater fires caused two civilian deaths, 18 civilian injuries, 26 fire service injuries and an estimated dollar loss of \$10.5 million. Sixteen percent (16%) of these fires were caused when combustible materials such as bedding, mattresses and pillows, clothing or furniture were too close to the heater, and another 9% were caused when rugs, carpets or mats were under or too close to the heater.

For information on space heaters or about how to keep warm safely this winter go to: [www.mass.gov/keepwarmkeepsafe](http://www.mass.gov/keepwarmkeepsafe).

---

# **Massachusetts State Police and local departments take down auto-theft ring active in multiple communities**

Three larceny suspects are now in custody and multiple accomplices are being sought in a joint law enforcement operation taking place in several communities south of Boston.

Massachusetts State Police Troopers and Hanover Police, Sharon Police, Braintree Police, and North Attleboro Police Officers, are involved in the investigation and ongoing search. The suspects are members of a Rhode Island-based crew believed responsible for thefts from vehicles in several communities.

Shortly after 7 p.m. yesterday (Tuesday, Nov. 5) Troopers and Officers conducting surveillance at a location in Dedham approached two suspect vehicles. Both vehicles, an Audi and a Chevrolet Suburban, fled the scene. Police did not actively pursue either vehicle but continued to seek them.

Both vehicles crashed separately in Sharon, one on Cottage Street and the other on Beach Street. Suspects fled on foot from both crashes. One male suspect was located nearby by a Sharon Police K-9 unit. The suspect had injuries and was transported in custody to Good Samaritan Hospital in Brockton.

MSP and local police established a perimeter and began searching for the remaining suspects.

At approximately 8:20 p.m., while searching for the suspects, MSP and Sharon Officers located a Jeep Compass outside Sharon High School. When the Trooper approached, the Jeep fled and got onto Route 95 southbound, with police in pursuit.



The Jeep crashed on Route 95 near Exit 4 in North Attleboro. The suspects in the Jeep fled the crash on foot.

Two additional suspects who fled from the initial crashes in Sharon were eventually captured overnight by Sharon Police following an exhaustive multi-agency search and were booked at State Police-Foxboro.

The exact number of remaining suspects is not known at this point but is believed to be at least two and possibly more than that.

The three arrested are:

- KEMONI L. MITCHELL, 21, of Providence, R.I.;
- JOSHUA D. TANGUI, 26, of Providence, R.I.;
- MARCOS A. TORRES, 24, of Providence, R.I.

They will be transported to Stoughton District Court this morning for arraignment on charges related to last night's incident and the ongoing theft investigation. Exact charges will be stated at the arraignment.

---

## **New Bedford School Committee Election Results: All three incumbents re-elected**

All three incumbent School Committee members won re-election tonight.

Results:

Christopher Cotter: 5,234

Bruce Oliveira: 4,988  
Joaquim Livramento: 4,633  
Ross M. Grace Jr: 4,236  
Christopher Boerl: 2,876

Voter turn out overall was at 16.4% with 9,785 people casting a vote citywide.

---

## **New Bedford Ward 3 Election Results: Dunn easily wins re- election over Larock**

Hugh Dunn won re-election for New Bedford Ward 3 City Council defeating Guy Larock 73% to 27%.

Vote count:

Hugh Dunn: 857  
Guy Larock: 312

Voter turn out overall was at 16.4% with 9,785 people casting a vote citywide.

---

## **New Bedford Ward 1 City**

# **Council Results – Markey defeats Costa by 230 votes**

William Markey won re-election for Ward 1 City Council defeating Melissa Costa by 230 votes.

William Markey: 1,236 (55%)

Melissa Costa: 1,006 (45%)

Voter turn out overall was at 16.4% with 9,785 people casting a vote citywide.

---

# **New Bedford Ward 4 Election Results: Baptiste defeats Fortes**

Newcomer Derek Baptiste defeated long-time political candidate Joseph “Jo-Jo” Fortes in New Bedford Ward 4 City Council race. The vote count:

Derek Baptiste: 999 (62%)

Joseph “Jo-Jo” Fortes: 613 (38%)

Voter turn out overall was at 16.4% with 9,785 people casting a vote citywide.

---

# **New Bedford At-large City Council Election Results: All five incumbents re-elected**

All five New Bedford At-large City Council incumbents were re-elected tonight.

Here are the results:

Ian Abreu: 5,588  
Linda Morad: 5,372  
Naomi Carney: 4,820  
Debora Coelho: 4,720  
Brian Gomes: 4,345  
Paul Chasse: 3,409  
Leo Choquette Jr.: 2,309  
Lisa White: 2,298  
Michael Janson: 2,049  
Carlos Felix: 1,507  
Write in: 112

Voter turn out was at 16.4% with 9,785 people casting a vote.

---

## **New Bedford Mayor's Election Results: Mitchell easily wins re-election with 72% of the**

# vote

Incumbent New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell easily defeated Richard Tyson Moultrie 6,778 votes to 2,483, or 72% to 26%. Mayor Mitchell will now serve a 4-year term.

Voter turn out was at 16.4% with 9,785 people casting a vote.