

# **Dartmouth Police Department respond to social media comments over Saturday's standoff**

"As most of you are already aware by now, last Saturday our department was involved in a standoff for several hours with a young man on Dartmouth Street.

As we do each time a major incident is shared on both social media and with the various media outlets, we review comments posted by the masses, in an effort to see if we can obtain any information that could prove useful to us moving forward.

While the comments posted about this particular incident were, for the most part, positive and supportive regarding our response, we also saw some that referred to it as "overkill," with some people telling us that we could "do better, " and that a couple of cops should have just tackled him.

Though we both understand and appreciate that the majority of these negative comments towards us came from individuals who know this particular family, we still felt it necessary to respond in such a way that might better explain how and why we handled this situation the way we did.

Before I get started on the breakdown of the incident, let me first take the fact out of the equation that this involved a local family, because as police officers we are sworn to protect and serve EVERYONE without bias, and, on this particular day, this young man put everyone at risk, including himself, thus making him no different in our eyes than a transient staying at one of the motels.

To get a better understanding of what occurred leading up to

the standoff, here's a brief synopsis of the incident, as written by the reporting officer:

Dartmouth officers went to the residence on Dartmouth Street to arrest the young man, who had three (3) outstanding warrants, and was wanted by Probation.

Upon arrival, the officers met with his parents, and confirmed that he was home.

After his father told him that the police were there to arrest him, the young man armed himself with a knife, and started carelessly, and violently, wielding it towards the officers. In response to his threatening, and potentially deadly behavior and actions, the officers deployed their electronic control devices (commonly referred to as "tasers") towards the young man. Because the electronic control devices rendered little to no effect on the young man, the officers removed the parents from the residence, and tactically retreated until more help could arrive on scene.

As the young man remained confrontational and uncooperative towards officers while still armed with a knife, the decision was made to request that S.W.A.T. team members and negotiators from the Southeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (SEMLEC) respond to the scene.

While waiting on the arrival of SEMLEC, the young man continued to remain uncooperative. He would occasionally yell at the officers to shoot him, and even live-streamed the event from his perspective on social media.

Upon the arrival of SEMLEC, the young man exited the house, and once again wielded the knife at one of the S.W.A.T. team members, before retreating back inside.

After negotiators were unsuccessful in talking the young man outside after several hours, the decision was made for S.W.A.T. to enter the residence.

After S.W.A.T. team members breached a window, the young man exited, and was taken into custody.

As a police officer, I could not be more proud of how this incident was handled from the onset, and, frankly, initially took exception to the negative comments posted towards us. However, after taking a deep breath and thinking about it for a moment, I came to the understanding that most people these days get their perspective on law enforcement from television, movies, press releases, and social media, and don't fully understand what a day in our life consists of.

First off, for those of you who default to mental illness every time something happens, please know that we are well-trained in dealing with people who suffer from mental illness, and, for the most part, can diffuse a situation by using either the gift of gab or the services of one of the clinicians who we frequently work closely with. However, the scary thing about mental illness is its unpredictability. Just ask any clinician! The ability for a calm person to turn aggressive and dangerous can happen without advanced notice, thus requiring us to think not only about our safety, but also about the collective safety of others, including the person in crisis.

While addressing the use of S.W.A.T., let us first explain what the acronym stands for: Special Weapons and Tactics. Thanks to television, movies and the Internet, most people default to the W, as we always see the team members, dawned in everything that is Velcro, shooting up the bad guys, and saving the day. This IS NOT reality! In reality, and speaking from experience, people should be drawn more to the T, as in most cases it is the tactics that the team members use that generally leads to a peaceful ending, as was the case last Saturday. Though not part of the traditional acronym, we could also insert a second T, for Time. When S.W.A.T. shows up, they slow things down and make the scene safer for everyone, after which time they discuss every possible option, because, in all

honesty, there is no need to rush into an already hostile situation, when the main goal is always the preservation of life.

As far as addressing the "Why so many cops? A couple of them could have just tackled the kid," posters out there, you don't deserve an explanation, because that theory is just plain foolish!

It also seemed like a lot of people were upset (that might be putting it lightly) about us publicly posting both his name and image. To that, all I can tell you is that it is newsworthy, and the public should know. If you think that we can shut down a major thruway and surround a house with dozens of officers for the entire day without the media taking note, you need to think again. In addition, and though we hope this young man gets the help he needs if he indeed suffers from mental illness, the public deserves to know that in his current state of mind, he could be potentially dangerous.

Also, and this goes back to the fourth paragraph, we cannot be bias just because he is a well-known resident of Dartmouth. We post dozens of criminals yearly who are not Dartmouth residents, and rarely do we ever see people come to their defense, and tell us how they must be suffering from mental illness. Again, though we get it, we have a responsibility to inform the community.

Though I could go on and on explaining what goes on during a critical incident from a law enforcement point of view, in the end it is going to be up to you to form your own opinion(s) about how we handle things. However, I truly hope that this helps provide a little knowledge to those of you who thought that our response was "overkill."

To those of you who think that we can "do better" next time, I don't fully disagree with you, as we are constantly learning, training, and preparing to better ourselves in every way,

shape, and form possible. However, for me to say that we could have done things better in this situation, well, I would just be lying!

PLEASE SHARE!"

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## **New Bedford single mother seeks public help for alleged car accident scam**

"I am looking for public help. On July 1, 2022, between Rockdale Ave and Bolton St. at 2:56 pm, I was driving with my son to get some karate shoes for him. He has an atypical syndrome that produces several symptoms including autism, OCD, a very low immune system (for which he had a fever that week), anxiety, among others.

A man who was driving a black Honda in front of me stepped on the brakes and this caused me to brake very close to his car, but there was no car-to-car contact. The passenger, a pregnant woman, got out of the car screaming and took a picture of my license plate.

From inside my car I told her that I had not touched her car. I did not get out of my car at any moment because I will never leave my son alone in the car and her car did not have any marks on it. A few days later I receive a citation letter from the court. I have never had a case in my life, nor a ticket

This girl's report said that I left the scene knowing there was an accident. It says that she was driving the vehicle and her husband was a passenger which wasn't true. The report also

states that I got out of my vehicle and talked to them and that I knew that their car had marks.

Yesterday, I went to court to explain the situation without lawyers because I don't have anything to hide. The prosecutor decides that he should file charges against me because I did not call 911 to report that a crash happened. The man was driving before the incident and changed places with his female passenger. They calculated everything they were going to say and then called and lied to the police.

I am asking for help! If there is any witness, cameras in the area, or someone who has recorded the incident, please help me!

I am a low-income, responsible, single mother of a special needs child. I do not drink, I do not smoke, I have never had a ticket on my record, and I have never harmed anyone.

Please, if anyone has any information or cameras installed in this area that can support what I say, it would help me a lot.

The police say that there are no cameras in this area. This situation it's killing me psychologically. If you have any information please email [hercubsil@gmail.com](mailto:hercubsil@gmail.com)."

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## **OPINION: "New Bedford Mayor shows complete disregard for community and health!"**

"Yet again, the City of New Bedford stands to exploit its community. Two weeks ago, the mayor acted unilaterally by entering into an agreement with Parallel Products, now

ironically called South Coast Renewables, without public participation or knowledge. Within this agreement, the mayor agrees to not oppose any future applications of approval for the company's project which, due to ambiguous contract language, could include the reconsideration of biosolids processing, once again without seeking or requiring community consultation or consent.

This agreement incentivizes increased tonnage of trash processing, as the city will receive \$2 for every ton processed. It is worth noting that in similar agreements in other communities, host cities are receiving \$4 per ton. The maximum amount of waste tonnage received is not clarified in the agreement. The list of materials this facility will process according to this agreement includes multiple waste items that could be dealt with more sustainably and efficiently elsewhere. Rather than supporting the broken system of single stream recycling, the city should be advocating for expansion of programs like the Bottle Bill, Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging and paper, and other efforts to reduce and prevent waste. Commingling waste only leads to further contamination and guarantees most of this waste will not be reused or recycled.

The city should not be financially incentivized to bring in more waste and should not be encouraging more consumption, especially in a time of climate crisis. Additionally, there is no mention of how the types of waste will be monitored, how much would be recycled or reused, or where any of this waste would end up if/when it leaves this facility. \$2/ton is very little compensation for everything the community is going to endure. \$800,000 is a very small percentage of the city's \$431M dollar budget.

There is no moratorium for traffic on Phillips Rd, only a fining system in place that will be virtually impossible to enforce. What is the alternatively approved route? How will South Coast Renewables compensate New Bedford residents for

this additional pollution, noise, and traffic in their communities, an “unquantifiable” impact? The agreement states the City of New Bedford will “incur various expenses and impacts....both quantifiable and unquantifiable”. Parallel Products explicitly admits this facility will negatively impact roads, infrastructure, and other public services in New Bedford. Additionally, there are costs that cannot even be calculated at this time. The unquantifiable impacts will be at the costs of residents and may mean anything from property values decreases, long-term health issues, and loss of business in the community.

It is quite unfortunate that neither the mayor nor the company brought in members of the community for feedback. It is especially disheartening that no member of zero waste initiatives or environmental groups were contacted by Mr. Cusson on behalf of the company. Guidance could have been offered on how to make this project economically feasible both for the company and the city, as well as truly environmentally friendly. The agreement states that both parties – the city and the company – were involved in the drafting of the agreement. Where was the community’s input? Both parties are aware of South Coast Neighbors United/Citizens Against the Parallel Products Project, and deliberately left out the people who will be most impacted by these decisions. The mayor is an elected official who works for the people of New Bedford, not South Coast Renewables.

Considering this company’s location in an Environmental Justice area, and New Bedford’s history of environmental injustice, it is doubly discouraging to the members of the community. This was a backdoor deal to further exploit the citizens of New Bedford. Mr. Mayor, our health is not for sale! Shame on you!

Wendy Morrill and Tracy Wallace  
President and Vice President of South Coast Neighbors United.”



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# **U.S. Attorney Rachael S. Rollins: “We must expose white supremacist cowards in Massachusetts”**

“Every single person deserves to live their life fully and authentically as who they are. But, if your authentic self is a bigot that wants to harm, humiliate and terrorize people, you are not welcome here.

There is no hierarchy as to who is entitled to a full and authentic life. We all are. In Boston, Massachusetts we have a long history of standing up to hate and injustice. We don’t hide behind masks. When we see inequity and harm, we look the culprit in their eyes and demand that it stops.

If it doesn’t, we use every means at our disposal – legislatively, through the courts, and with community organizing – to end it. And that is exactly what is going to happen here. If the public has any troubling or concerning information about members of white supremacist groups, we ask that you notify your local police departments or a member of law enforcement. I will be announcing a dedicated number for the community to call in the coming weeks.

We need to expose these cowards. As was shown by the swift response of Mayor Wu and the Boston Police Department this weekend, there is a zero tolerance policy for white supremacists or any potential racially motivated violent extremist in Massachusetts.

As the Chief Federal law enforcement officer, I stand ready to

deploy federal time and resources to assist our State, Local and Tribal partners in effectuating any arrests and prosecutions.”

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## **(Letter to Editor) Dartmouth resident: “Bristol County needs Paul Heroux for Sheriff!”**

“To the editor:

Recent letters to the editor from Jonathan Darling, Sheriff Thomas Hodgson’s media guy, fondly describe a long-standing and warm relationship between the two, but there is little to recommend the Sheriff’s continued employment by Bristol County taxpayers.

I don’t care if what Hodgson the True Believer says at a lunch counter is precisely what he says on Fox News, at Christian nationalist events, or on far-right talk radio. Mr. Darling may paint Hodgson as a purveyor of Big Ideas but there isn’t an idea that Hodgson mouths that hasn’t been scripted for him by the Federation for American Immigration Reform or the Center for Immigration Studies – both recognized hate groups – or some other rightwing lobby.



*Paul Heroux Facebook photo.*

For all of Hodgson's micromanagement of coffee and shovels which Darling points to as saving taxpayer money, Hodgson has nevertheless managed to waste hundreds of thousands of hours and taxpayer dollars nurturing connections with white supremacists, militia groups, sovereign citizens, and his pals at the Constitutional Sheriff's and Police Officer's Association (CSP0A), a far right group that thinks sheriffs have the right to interpret the Constitution for themselves. Since roughly 2011 the sheriff has been rubbing elbows with groups with neo-nazi and Identitarian members, such as the

American Border Foundation, which was crowdfunding Trump's wall and still hasn't accounted for its donations. And Hodgson's latest project, Protect America Now, is led by eight sheriffs, several of whom belong to the Oath Keepers.

The gushing letters which Mr. Darling has written make no mention of the abuses of prisoners that courts have called unconstitutional, the filthy conditions under which inmates are warehoused, the practically non-existent rehabilitation, or Hodgson's own participation in tear-gassing prisoners – a stunt which led the Department of Homeland Security to take away Hodgson's prized ICE 287(g) program – the same program the state auditor found that Hodgson was likely undercharging ICE for at taxpayer expense, and the same program whose receipts were carelessly deposited in a slush fund instead of being remitted to the state Comptroller.

Hodgson and Darling may claim that nobody really knows what goes on in the jail. And that may well be. Hodgson refuses to open up the jail to just anyone for a complete inspection. He even barred state senator Sonia Chang-Diaz from entering – a violation of state law granting representatives access to jails and prisons.



*Paul Heroux Facebook photo.*

But some of Hodgson's former employees can tell you what's

what. His is a jail with extremely high turnover, and abusing prisoners is not for everybody. On July 9th a former Corrections Officer wrote the Fall River Reporter that "there are many things that happened behind the scenes, some illegal, that were never brought to light as to avoid negative publicity. Just a few to highlight are corrupt officers delivering dangerous contraband and drugs to inmates. [...] There were also several assaults in the facility (on inmates, and between officers) that should be responsibly reported to the community."

If this is new information, voters might recall that two of Hodgson's officers were involved in a money laundering scheme for Carlos "Codfather" Rafael, and that Rafael boasted of asking Hodgson to appoint one of them to a position with DHS clearance that could be used to advantage. Hodgson doesn't deny Rafael's phone call or promoting the money launderer.

Despite all Hodgson's far-right distractions, zealotry, and cruelty, Bristol County still has among the highest recidivism rates in the state and prisoners just keep returning to lockup. Hodgson's campaign slogan, "Jail is not a country club," might be a catchy one for some voters, but a slogan is no replacement for doing the one thing a Massachusetts sheriff is responsible for – rehabilitating prisoners.

After 25 years of scandals and controversies, Bristol County is sick and tired of this sheriff. It's time to replace Hodgson with someone who has both the training and the desire to turn his dysfunctional operation around.

On September 6th, and again on November 2nd, vote for Paul Heroux for Bristol County Sheriff.

David Ehrens Dartmouth, MA."

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# New Bedford Teachers Want Their Local Schools to Opt in to the Paid Family & Medical Leave Program

*\*Opinion\** This letter was shared with us from a group of concerned local educators.

This started out as a New Bedford Voc Maternity and Paternity leave issue. However, after being told that the district had decided they “did not wish to reopen negotiations over the terms and conditions of parental leave ... , because it does not have a bargaining obligation at this time,” it became clear that this is a public school system issue as a whole. **Right now public school teachers at Voc, New Bedford, Dartmouth, and Fairhaven public schools offer no paid time off when welcoming a child into their family.** Voc specifically allows women to use any accrued time off over an 8-week period unless they can provide a doctor’s note for additional four weeks. If an individual does not have enough accrued sick time they would have to go unpaid or come back to work much earlier than a medical professional would advise. Voc only offers 20 days of use of accrued sick time to new fathers, any same-sex parents that are not the birthing parents, and adoptive parents which is not very progressive.

If you are a public school teacher in Massachusetts you are responsible for loving, nurturing, teaching, and just simply being there for the children in your class. Unfortunately, teachers are not afforded the luxury of being able to give this same attention to our own children. **As the rest of the**

state makes incremental strides forward when it comes to parental leave our school committees, superintendents, and city council members have made the decision, and I emphasize the word decision, to make the parental leave policy at this schools more restrictive than many other jobs in the state.

The public school system has refused to sign on to the state's PFML (Paid Family Medical Leave) program, which is allowable as we are a municipality. There is a major contention right now with the public school vs. charter school system, but when we look at what the two systems can offer teachers early on in their career, when most young people are starting families there is clear value being placed on the faculty and staff at one establishment and not at the other. On the one hand, you have the public school system which has refused to sign on to the paid leave that PFML would provide for all new parents regardless of how they become parents. These 12 weeks to heal and bond with their children without adding to the financial burden of not getting a paycheck and still being responsible for insurance would apply to foster parents, adoptive parents, non-birthing parents, and the birthing parents. Since charter schools are not considered part of a municipality they are not excluded from PFML law and each new parent is automatically able to take 12 weeks of paid time off.

For a long time, the administration in surrounding districts has started a "competition" between the schools. This competition has created an unspoken division between the unions in these school districts, but no more. It is time for the teachers to take a stand and demand that our families get the priority level of the children in our class. **We are asking that the current public school administrators understand that it takes three years to accrue enough sick time to take just eight weeks of maternity leave off, and that is if everything goes perfect over those three years.** I think that we can all agree with the COVID-19 pandemic things have been far from perfect and people have had to forfeit a lot of sick time over

the last couple of years.

We are hoping for a fair and consistent policy. We are hoping for mutual respect. We are hoping that it is recognized that we give the students in our class 100% every day and that our own families deserve the same. We would love for our administration, school committees, and council members to recognize the right thing to do and adopt PFML effective immediately, but as Malcolm X said, "By any means necessary."

The decision-makers on this issue are often unaffected by the financial stress of having to go unpaid just after the birth of a child placed on a young family. Many teachers are living paycheck to paycheck which is something many of the higher-ups in the cities and towns we work in have not experienced in a long time if ever. To put some of these points into perspective, the average School Superintendent's salary in both Dartmouth and New Bedford is \$178,464, in Fairhaven, it is \$178,078, and at New Bedford Voc which is one school, the current superintendent makes an annual salary of \$170,000.

Signed,  
Stephanie Canery, GNBVT  
Michael Perry, GNBVT  
Sarah Hartley, GNBVT  
Cathy Houtman, New Bedford Public Schools

**Petition Link for "Teachers Deserve Maternity & Paternity Leave:**

[https://sign.moveon.org/petitions/teachers-deserve-maternity-paternity-leave?source=rawlink&utm\\_source=rawlink&share=4100660d-5988-4466-b52c-65ab10792c48&fbclid=IwAR1flvH78ueK55TurdMM0Yi5B0E92mayjEsS-xvrZFb2UENHlpEImDB6xeA](https://sign.moveon.org/petitions/teachers-deserve-maternity-paternity-leave?source=rawlink&utm_source=rawlink&share=4100660d-5988-4466-b52c-65ab10792c48&fbclid=IwAR1flvH78ueK55TurdMM0Yi5B0E92mayjEsS-xvrZFb2UENHlpEImDB6xeA)

**To opt into PFML as an excluded employer (public schools):**

Governing body votes to opt-in under M.G.L. 157M Section 10



(i.e. school committee or city council)

The person on file for the Department of Revenue (DOR) MassTaxConnect account informs DOR that the employer intends to opt-in

DOR provides information on documents required to file an opt-in request

Notice of Election (provided by DOR from DFML)

Notarized letter from an officer confirming the governing body has elected PFML contributions

Employer logs into MassTaxConnect account and submits an e-message requesting to opt-in and attaches the 2 documents

E-message is sent to DFML, which reviews the request and either approves it or sends out a request for more information

If approved, the employer must register a new PFML account within DOR's MassTaxConnect to send contributions

The employer also must create a DFML employer account and designate a leave administrator to review PFML applications

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## **OPINION: "Sheriff Hodgson's commitment to New Bedford's Ash Street Jail is why he gets my vote"**

*The following is an opinion sent to New Bedford Guide. It does not reflect the opinion of New Bedford Guide, nor is it an OP-ED. In fairness and objectivity, we share opinions from our readers whether we agree or disagree with their opinion.*

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"To the Editor:

It being an election year, it's no surprise that a big issue I've seen in the media with regard to the Sheriff's race is the Ash Street Jail and Regional Lock-Up in New Bedford.

The jail opened in 1888. It's more than a century old. It used to house pirates, infamous ax murderer Lizzie Borden and all manor of troublemakers in the old whaling days of New Bedford and Bristol County. The last public hanging in Massachusetts took place right there in the visiting area, or at least that's how the urban legend goes.

I've read and heard the calls from Sheriff Hodgson's political opponents to close the jail. It's too old, they say. It's too expensive, they say. It has a laundry list of problems, they say.

They're wrong. You know how I know they're wrong? I ran the place for several years.

In 2014, I was given and accepted the opportunity to lead the team at the Ash Street facility as Assistant Deputy Superintendent of Security. Over the next five years, I witnessed the work and compassion shown by each and every staff member there. The Ash Street team took and continues to take enormous pride in the facility and its stellar reputation in law enforcement circles.

The facility is clean, quiet and safe. It passes annual inspections/audits from several different organizations, from the state Department of Corrections to the city Fire Department and Health Department. These successes are squarely the reflection of the hard work and dedication of the staff.

Every day while at Ash Street, I saw inmates in classes and programs, taking advantage of the educational, substance abuse and other opportunities offered by the Sheriff's Office to help them get back on the road to success. Every day I saw it.

Aside from the jail, law enforcement agencies from across the county use the regional lock-up to house their arrestees so they don't have to hold them at the police stations. If someone is arrested in Dartmouth, Rehoboth, Berkley or any other community in Bristol County, they can be brought to Ash Street before their court appearance, which frees up police resources in the communities which would otherwise be tasked with watching an arrestee.

The BCSO Civil Process division is also based at Ash Street, and provides a valuable and necessary service to the community.

The Ash Street Jail is not the dilapidated money pit that political activists and candidates say it is. It is a vital county asset, manned by capable, diligent and outstanding officers.

I take great pride in the facility, and Sheriff Hodgson's commitment to this facility and the corrections professionals who work there are just another reason why he has my vote in November.

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*Have a story, opinion, or talent you want to share? Email us at [info@newbedfordguide.com](mailto:info@newbedfordguide.com).*

Joseph Oliver III  
Dartmouth."

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# **OPINION: Mayor Mitchell brags about New Bedford's port status, but endorses projects that hurt fishing industry**

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"This was a really sad day for us. After 24 years of docking our lobster/fishing boats at Marine Hydraulics, the City of New Bedford has decided to eliminate 15 small commercial fishing berths to build the North Terminal.

Ironically, the mayor said the project will add much-needed commercial fishing berths. Please explain??!

I understand the need for the City to expand and adapt to future technologies but don't totally displace the industry that put us on the map for the last 22 years and longer, especially small family businesses. Mayor Mitchell constantly brags about New Bedford's number one fishing port status, but then contradicts himself with projects that hurt the fishing industry.

We were told for the past two years that they would relocate our boats, but they bailed out at the 11th hour and now we have nowhere to go. To quote the NBPA, "You've had it too good for too long."

We are currently not allowed to keep our boats at recreational docks. Please share if you feel New Bedford needs more

commercial fishing dockage for these small family businesses.”  
-Jarret Drake.



*“Before.” Photo by Jarrett Drake.*

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**OPINION: “New Bedford’s Fort Rodman’s tank is not a jungle gym! Have some honor and respect.”**

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"I would like to share a story about respect and honor.

The date is April 28th, 1944, today the allied forces are running a dress rehearsal on Slapton Sands in southwest England for operation D-Day which is scheduled to happen on June 6th, 1944.

"We sailed along in fatal ignorance." writes LT Eugene E. Eckstam who was a medical officer aboard one of the tank landing ships that were sunk by German U- boats.



*Elise Carlson photo.*

The attack from the Germans was not a fluke like some thought

it was. It was part of an effort by the Germans to disrupt preparations for the invasion of northern France. The Germans saw the boats full of Higgins boats and tanks coming in for the rehearsal and saw their chance to cause some havoc, they sent their torpedoes and U-boats to attack.

749 lives were lost that day, not due to quick deaths but to drowning, blast burns, and hypothermia.

This is a story that many people do not know about which is fine. It's why you go to history museums and monuments with your families to learn. Not to climb on a tank like a jungle gym for photo ops.

I have lived here since I was 6 years old and too many times I have seen and told adults many years my senior to 'Please tell your kids to get off the monument.' Sure, there are some monuments in the world that you are allowed to explore but this is not one of them.



*Elise Carlson photo.*

This is one you stand in front of and read the sign that gives you a short story about why it's important. This is one you admire and pay respects to the men who died for this country. It pains me to have to tell people not to disrespect the memory of these men but unfortunately, Honor and Respect are a rarity in our modern society.

Memorials and monuments like these are the reason for May 30th, Memorial day or to some 'kick off to summer' day. It's a day to remember the reason we are a free country, because of the men and women who have died for our freedom.



We cannot bring them back but we can Respect them by defending their honor and sharing their stories. Please think about that for this upcoming memorial day and Do Not climb the tank.

Thank you.

-H – at Fort Rodman.” -Elise Carlson.

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## **OPINION: “I am concerned the Dartmouth School Board Committee will act against the town’s voters”**

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“To the editor:

On April 5, 2022, the Town of Dartmouth held Town Elections for the offices of Town Selectman, School Board Committee Member, and a few other offices or posts. On that ballot was a question about keeping the Dartmouth High School logo as the “Dartmouth Indians”. The Town hosted opportunities for debate and both sides were given equal time to present their position and their views on keeping or retiring the Indian logo. Throughout the debate it was known that on April 5th the town would be voting on the issue and ultimately democracy won. Whichever side received the most votes won. That is a free and

fair election.

The unofficial results related to question one on keeping the logo, are as follows:

4048 – YES (keep the logo)

969 – NO (retire the logo)

Not even close !!!

However, I am now concerned that the Dartmouth School Board Committee has the final say and may act against the majority of the town's voters. The concern that "we are losing our democracy" only applies when "special groups" lose. True democracy had its day on April 5, 2022, and the voters of Dartmouth voted to keep the logo. This should be a resolved issue and the people of Dartmouth who voted should be heard, respected, and ultimately accepted by the board. That is how true democracy works.

I am a twenty-year resident of the Town of Dartmouth and I truly appreciate the community and culture my children have been fortunate enough to have been raised in. Dartmouth is not a racist town it is a family-friendly town with respect for all ethnicities.

Sincerely,

Derek Thomas"