

New Bedford grassroots movement calls upon elected officials to address Malcolm Gracia case

By Davell Thomas

A community forum on the need for New Bedford to launch an independent investigation into the police killing of Malcolm Gracia will be held via Zoom on Wednesday evening.

Community members who organized the June 7 Justice for Malcolm Gracia Car Caravan, which involved more than 75 vehicles in a protest that moved through the city, put together the forum and invited state & city's elected officials (State Representative Christopher Hendricks, State Representative Antonio Cabral, Mayor Jon Mitchell, and all the New Bedford City Councilors) to be part of the forum. Participants distributed posters with the message "We Demand Charges On Tyson Barnes – David Brown – Paul Fonseca -Brian Safioleas - Trevor Sylvia for filing false police reports. Call 508 997-0711. JUSTICE FOR MALCOLM GRACIA"



Justice for Malcolm Gracia Car Caravan.

The public forum is specifically intended to share the details of this case with our elected officials before the community that they claim to represent. The Zoom meeting will run from 6 to 8 p.m. and the Zoom ID is: 996 7358 2873.

Gracia was shot and killed by New Bedford police in 2012. Recently, surveys of community needs and demands showed overwhelming support for “an independent investigation into the New Bedford Police murder of Malcolm Gracia and criminal cover-up.”

Amid a national crisis, a local collective committed to racial and social justice has formed and continues to grow. The collective will continue to organize a grassroots movement in response to state-sanctioned violence and structural racism. The organizers and participants of the collective seek to strategically create change in the policies and practices that have upheld institutional racism, state violence, and injustice. The collective also has a goal of bringing

awareness and education to local residents and organizations on the issues that negatively affect people of color and violate their basic human rights.



Jessica Gracia at City Councilor Naomi Carney's House.

A letter to state and city leaders inviting them to the forum reads:

"We are DEMANDING that you act to leverage your position and exercise your responsibility as a publicly elected official by formally and publicly calling for charges to be brought up on New Bedford police officers Tyson Barnes, David Brown, Paul Fonseca, Brian Safioleas, and Trevor Sylvia for filing false police reports in the murder of New Bedford teen Malcolm Gracia.

All of New Bedford's local elected leaders, along with Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey and Bristol County District Attorney Thomas Quinn III, received a digital invitation to the forum.

The criminal acts of New Bedford police officers Tyson Barnes, David Brown, Paul Fonsceca, Brian Safioleas, Trevor Sylvia present a continuing threat to public safety requiring immediate attention.

Individuals in New Bedford can no longer claim ignorance on this matter. Ignorance certainly is not innocence. We are demanding action by our publicly elected officials. If they choose inaction, we will have no choice but to continue taking further actions. We will not cease until justice is served!"

For more information regarding the collective, movement, caravan, or the Wednesday-night meeting, please contact Davell Thomas at thomasdavell0@gmail.com.

In the pursuit of JUSTICE,

Davell Thomas

Buddy Andrade: Let's not forget Malcolm Gracia

By John G. Buddy Andrade:

"Hi America,

We again are faced with the most vicious and ugly virus of all, (I don't mean COVID-19 or WAR) I mean BlackHateRacism-RacismHateBlack.

I want to be clear I am focused on hate racism towards Black People – African Americans and we must stop allowing everyone else problems to be more important than ours.

Let's work together to find a final solution to our concerns around health, environmental health, environmental justice, homeownership and affordable housing, Job training career discriminations, total criminal justice reform, RETRAINING of ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL AND POLICY CHANGES. drugs and gun violence Education for our children and young adults so that they can HEAL themselves from the BlackHateRacism-RacismHateBlack, an American Virus.

The young people in New Bedford who have made their voices heard, good job. I urge you to be your leaders to keep on the path of non-violence, don't follow, lead for peace and freedom, we need your voices at the table to fight for change.

Colin Kaepernick tried to warn people that enough is enough, he provided a peaceful constitutional right of expression for Americans to take part in, remember what happened, BlackHateRacism-RacismHateBlack, now what?

In Solidarity with all the black families who have lost love ones, we in New Bedford stand with you.

New Bedford, we have our own unfinished business, "while we are on the subject" – Malcolm Gracia.

What I am sharing is Public Information it happens here and is still not solved. Please view video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZxy2rhZ3os> and read '**Will New Bedford ever know the truth about what happened to Malcolm Gracia?**'. Let's not forget Malcolm Gracia, and his family he was only 15 years old. Where is his Justice?

Let's organize peaceful and positive solutions, we all can do something there are many ways to get involved. Be leaders for peace and freedom."

John G. Buddy Andrade

Also read:

Op-Ed: Kareem Abdul-Jabbar: Don't understand the protests?
What you're seeing is people pushed to the edge
<https://news.yahoo.com/op-ed-kareem-abdul-jabbar-022901673.html>
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ALSO, LISTEN TO AND PLAY IT LOUD

James Brown...Say It Loud I'm Black And I'm Proud... 1968

OPINION: An open letter to the New Bedford community by High School Upperclassmen: what we need from our educational experience amidst COVID-19

Ashley Cowles is a graduating senior at New Bedford High School and wrote this op-ed on distance learning from a student perspective. To reinforce her own fears about education during COVID-19, she gathered student perspectives on distance learning. Given the inconsistencies in education students are experiencing through distance learning, she believes the community, specifically educators and school leaders, could benefit from hearing their concerns.

"I woke Monday morning to the dreaded but anticipated news: Massachusetts schools would shut down for the remainder of the

school year. Learning would continue through remote online platforms. My stomach dropped. Just like that, my senior year had been pulled out from under my feet. After nearly four years of hard work, memories, and musings of the future, my high school experience would remain distantly suspended like a held-in sneeze.

After the initial shock came a sudden and debilitating flood of fears about the remainder of the year. I still have three AP exams in May. While distance learning had kept us clumsily afloat until this point, it in no way replaces the in-person test prep I rely on to be successful. I couldn't handle another two months of unopened emails, busywork, and ridiculous self-teaching expectations.

Knowing I couldn't be alone in my anxieties, I reached out to my peers to see how they were handling the news. Unsurprisingly, they feel similarly.

In general, students are happy with our district's reaction to the crisis. One junior from my AP literature course explained how the school's initiative to continue providing meals to students helped her family after her mother couldn't grocery shop. Another senior peer praised the school's decision to authorize a "credit/no credit" system, stating, "Pass/Fail offers students who can't prioritize their education right now an opportunity to still get their diploma." As our district is familiar with low-income families, it's no surprise the school department has a grip on broader equity issues.

However, when the conversation turns to our individual learning experience, we have concerns about communication and consistency. We've noticed that while some teachers are still reaching out to students, others have fallen silent. A junior posed that without routine communication from educators, it's easy for students to "fall off the wagon," especially while stuck at home. It's clear that the inability to meet face to face has revealed discrepancies in effort on behalf of

individual educators. Here the true responsibility of educators reveals itself; it's up to you to ensure us students are keeping up. In the words of a peer, in a time when it's easier to shut down and "stay in bed all day," we as students rely on that accountability.

In the same vein, you should understand that accountability does not equal busywork. One junior insisted that school was "so much more" than learning content. She protested the massive amount of work one teacher had assigned with barely any guidance and hard deadlines. "I have to watch my brothers," she stated, as her parents were still working and daycare facilities had closed. She went on to point out that some teachers weren't taking into account the new responsibilities of their students during a crisis. Here, individual interpretation comes into play; while my peer's teacher may assume she's doing the right thing by keeping kids busy, she is actually impeding their ability to safely operate in a crisis.

It seems that COVID is exacerbating issues that had previously plagued NBHS, namely, communication. With no past experience, training, or new guidelines to reference, teachers are at a loss, and many struggle to connect with students effectively. As a result, students are facing inconsistencies in contact and workload that impede learning. One junior argues: teachers are "limited by their own capabilities."

To alleviate the pressure put on educators, students have suggestions. Ultimately, we're calling for school leaders to be straightforward in their expectations of teachers; thus far, any direction has been overly general. One junior suggests that while a large responsibility falls on teachers during this crisis, "clearer guidelines" will eliminate any harmful interpretation of how education should continue, and make sure students are still learning while remaining sensitive about our current situation.

At the end of the day, we recognize that this crisis has thrown us all for a loop and that the district has done what they could given the circumstances. However, educators and department heads have to understand that unless we better coordinate the distance learning experience, students will continue feeling isolated and overwhelmed during an already taxing ordeal. Now more than ever, we need to generate a conversation that is ongoing; one that fosters better communication among student, educator, and school leader, and ensures educators are getting the resources necessary to operate without causing harm.

Some experts anticipate the COVID crisis extending into the fall, along with school cancellations. If we establish a strong foundation now, we can create a more efficient learning model that will prepare us for this possibility.”-Ashley Cowles.

OPINION: Based on the data, isn't it time to start opening up Massachusetts again?

Yesterday, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health released its most detailed COVID-19 report yet. While it's a lot of data to consume and analyze, it's hard to argue that Massachusetts needs to continue to hibernate its population.

The first data that caught my attention is that the average age of confirmed COVID-19 deaths is 81 years old. Out of the 1,809 deaths attributed to COVID-19, 1,144 were people over 80

years old, or 63%. In fact, 95% of all deaths are people 60 and older. Only 21 people under the age of 50 have died, or 1.1% of the total deaths. This virus is killing the elderly and rarely people 50 and under.



Second, 97.5% of the people that died had underlying health issues.



This data reaffirms what I learned in March as Italy COVID-19 deaths were peaking and 99% of those dying had preexisting conditions and nearly 50% of those that died had three or more preexisting conditions. The average death was also in the 80s.

Finally, nearly a third of random participants in a Massachusetts study tested positive for antibodies linked with coronavirus, without even knowing they had COVID-19.

The Mass. General study took samples from 200 residents on the street in Chelsea, MA. Participants remained anonymous and provided a drop of blood to researchers, who were able to produce a result in ten minutes with a rapid test.

Sixty-four of the participants tested positive – a “sobering” result, according to Thomas Ambrosino, Chelsea’s city manager.


“We’ve long thought that the reported numbers are vastly under-counting what the actual infection is,” Ambrosino told the Boston Globe. “Those reported numbers are based on positive COVID-19 tests, and we’re all aware that a very, very small percentage of people in Chelsea and everywhere are getting COVID-19 tests.”

This means a very large percentage of the population has COVID-19 and doesn’t even know it because they don’t get sick

or the symptoms are so mild they don't notice it. Elderly are already dying in large numbers while we have our state locked down, suggesting that the problem is likely with the nursing homes and a lockdown isn't going to

I'm not suggesting we open up Massachusetts like it was pre-coronavirus. What I'm saying is it's time to let the least vulnerable population go back to work and perform everyday activities with new precautions in place (no concerts, major sports events, etc.) while protecting the most vulnerable population. Continue to lock down the nursing homes, ramp up testing and of course the social distancing and washing hands that have been so impactful. The experts need to tell us the best way to open back up and I'm sure it will be a phased approach, but the conversation needs to start today and the actions need to come sooner than later or the economic damage could be devastating.

RI has a good plan to start reopening:



REOPEN RI

Six Key Indicators for Reopening:

1. Has the rate of spread continued to decrease?
2. Do we have the capacity to quickly identify community spread on an ongoing basis before a major outbreak occurs?
3. Do we have necessary supports in place for vulnerable populations, and for anyone in quarantine?
4. Does our healthcare system have the capacity and the PPE to handle future surges?
5. Do businesses, schools, child care sites, faith organizations and recreational spaces have plans for long-term social distancing?
6. Are we prepared to reimpose measures, or reclose certain sectors of the economy, if it becomes necessary?

New Bedford resident fined after stranger leaves garbage in front of her business

"I received a ticket for my business this morning apparently some a*&hole dumped this in front of my business after we closed.

We found a ticket stuck to our door saying we have to pay a fine! I will fight this and go to the news with this! We have never in the 1 year we have been open and in the 6 months prior doing construction ever done such a thing! We are super neat and clean.

We decided to OPEN a second location in the city because we liked the downtown vibe, the people have been great, and we have never had an issue. When we called to explain they said it's our responsibility if someone dumps sh*t in front of our business, in the other 2 towns I have opened in we have NEVER encountered this absurd rule!

Also, I lease my storefront, it has 3 stories with offices above and other storefronts at street level...the pile was left in between us and another separate storefront not part of our building, so to single us out is a crapshoot." -Sherri Flynn DeChaine.

To Wear or Not to Wear a Mask

By Michael Rocha, MD

New Bedford, Massachusetts – In a well-meaning effort to fight COVID-19, there is a lot of information and even more opinion circulating about the use and effectiveness of various masks. The controversies can be confusing. Guidelines have wavered and different countries have adopted a spectrum of approaches.

As a part of their national strategies, some countries have encouraged widespread use of masks, both in healthcare and for the public. Notably, there was widespread mask usage by the US public during the 1918 flu pandemic. On April 3, 2020, the CDC made the recommendation to wear “cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies) especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.” (CDC.gov)

There are two types of masks commonly used by healthcare professionals: N-95 masks and surgical masks. The indication for when each is used often depends on whether the virus may be in aerosolized form or droplet form. An aerosolized virus is suspended in the air like a gas or fog and may be present for three hours in some settings. This is often much more transmissible and is the greater threat to healthcare professionals. A droplet virus particle is a relatively heavy particle that falls to the ground or any surface by gravity, usually within 6 feet.

N-95 masks are among a class of masks that are named based upon how many particles are filtered. A N-95 mask can filter 95% of particles in the air and must be professionally fit-tested to ensure a complete, proper seal. They are widely used for diseases such as tuberculosis. Currently, they are being used in situations when there is extremely close contact such

as when a breathing tube is placed.

N-95 masks were made to be used once and discarded. In the current pandemic, healthcare workers are often given a single N-95 mask to last a day or more and may be reused. It's unclear if the masks retain their effectiveness after a few hours. Production of N-95 masks is being increased but is limited by lack of materials. There are not nearly enough N-95 masks currently available to keep every healthcare professional adequately protected. EVERY available N-95 mask should be in the hands of healthcare professionals.

Surgical masks are made of moisture-resistant inner- and outer layers with an inner filter. They are used in hospital situations where the risk of aerosolized virus particles is low. Surgical masks are not airtight but when worn correctly, provide protection. They are currently being used by hospital personnel in situations where aerosolized virus is not a concern. Supply is not unlimited and this is playing a role in the conflicting recommendations by various health and governing bodies. Like N95 masks, surgical masks should be saved for use by healthcare workers.

There is another type of mask that you likely see frequently: cloth masks. These masks are not hospital-grade but are being used by healthcare professionals when N-95 and surgical masks are not available. Some healthcare professionals are using cloth masks over N-95 masks to extend their potential life-span. These are the masks that are now recommended for the general public to use.

There are limitations to use of cloth masks but they may have a critical role in slowing the spread of COVID-19. A cloth mask itself will not prevent the person wearing it from contracting COVID-19. Its ability to filter air particles is at best 50% and unlike N-95 masks, it does not have a tight seal around the mouth and nose. If it is not taken off properly, there is a risk of contaminating oneself and any

surface it touches.

One purpose of a cloth mask is to prevent the person wearing it from spreading COVID-19. The cloth mask prevents secretions from spreading by essentially collecting them on the fabric. They may also help remind people to avoid touching their face. If every person wore one when in public, it could help prevent asymptomatic people from spreading the virus.

In countries that encourage universal mask usage by the public, there appears to be a slower spread of the virus which is critical to preventing our healthcare system from becoming overwhelmed. Wearing a mask reduces the transmission of the virus from one person to another. It's crucial though that people wearing a mask avoid a potential false sense of security. The role of a cloth mask is in conjunction with, not in place of, social distancing and good hand hygiene.

If you do wear a mask, please learn to use it properly to ensure safety and effectiveness. Before putting it on, wash your hands and make sure the mask is clean. Determine the orientation of the mask (which side is inside/outside and which edge is close to the nose). Marking this with a pen is a good idea if you plan on removing and reusing it through the day before washing it. If the mask gets moist or wet, it may not be as effective and it may breed germs.

If any obvious contaminants or droplets land on the mask, remove and do not reuse until it is washed. Avoid readjusting the mask after exposure, but if you must, use washed hands to do so and wash your hands after you adjust the mask. Do not readjust your mask with unwashed hands. Have a high index of suspicion that the straps or loops of the mask may be contaminated.

If you store an unwashed mask in a paper bag or container you can contaminate the inside of the mask if you orient it in alternating positions. Assume the outside of the mask is

contaminated and treat surfaces that it may touch as contaminated. Wash the mask often and after every use, as regular laundry soap deactivates the virus. It's best to have at least two masks so that if one becomes moist or soiled, another is available while the first is washed. Know the limitations of the material of the DIY mask.

If you decide to use a mask, please save ALL N-95 and surgical masks for our healthcare professionals and first responders. They have the greatest exposure and it appears that healthcare professionals who contract COVID-19 may have a more severe case. We MUST protect our protectors.

The CDC has now recommended cloth masks for all when going out in public for essential needs. This will now be an important part of our efforts along with social distancing and hand washing to do our job and beat this virus.

#Masks4All #SaveN95SurgicalMasks4Healthcare

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best-practices for mask creation, design, and use.

3M Website April 2014 PDF Key Differences Between Respirators and Masks

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- COVID-19: WHY WE SHOULD ALL WEAR MASKS – THERE IS NEW SCIENTIFIC RATIONALE Dr. Sui Huang in Medium.com on March 26, 2020
- Keeping the Coronavirus from Infecting Health-Care Workers What Singapore's and Hong Kong's success is teaching us about the pandemic. Atul Gawande, MD in New Yorker on March 21, 2020
- Not wearing masks to protect against coronavirus is a 'big mistake,' top Chinese scientist says. Jon Cohen in Science Magazine on March 27, 2020
- To fight the spread of coronavirus, it's time to wear masks in all hospitals. Harlan Krumholz, MD in Washington Post on March 31, 2020
- Wear a Mask. No, Don't Wear a Mask. Wait: Yes, Wear a Mask. Danielle Kosecki In Elemental by Mediciu on March 31, 2020
- Why Telling People They Don't Need Masks Backfired. by Zeynep Tufekci in New York Times Opinion on March 17, 2020

OPINION: “New Bedford, your loved one will possibly die

scared and alone instead of surrounded by their loved ones if you don't take precautions."

"I want to say something to make people understand how serious they need to be taking this pandemic. Most people with good health will never really understand the true meaning of how bad this is for other members of our society who are not as lucky to have good health. To those people, I say how lucky you are!

Let me explain to you what the potential of this virus is if we do not take every precaution there is to keep from allowing it to spread.

If you live with a loved parent grandparent or other family member or friend that has health issues such as COPD, diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis. You need to socially distance yourself (6 feet) from all other people. That means hanging out at someone's house. Riding around with others in vehicles and using caution with public transportation. And if you choose to not take these precautions, this is what happens!

You have just socially spread Covid 19 into your home. Your mother, father or grandparent are now going to get very sick. If, and this is a big if, they recover you and they are very lucky! Think about the ones that are not that lucky. You will need to say goodbye to them at the nearest medical facility because you will not be allowed in with them. With luck, the facility will have the proper medical equipment to help them.

They will be hooked up to a ventilator and be alone for long periods of time, only to have an overworked health professional check on them occasionally while they have dozens

of other patients to check on. Your loved one will possibly die scared and alone instead of surrounded by their loved ones.

Think about this when you say it won't hurt anyone if I go hang out for a short while." -[Kelly Timms Hinckley].

OPINION: "You are irresponsible pigs if you discard your face masks or gloves on the ground!"

"In this era of 'social distancing,' we are supposed to be concerned about spreading the virus, and protecting ourselves and others, right? But then we have piggish slobs who think it's OK to throw their 'protection' on the ground who pollute and potentially spread the virus to others.

Just think of some little child picking this up off the ground because he/she doesn't know any better. It could be your child or your nieces, nephews, cousins...



Photo by Dennis Malenfant.

Got to laugh, and it's not even funny (nor, I'm sure, to those of you affected). THINK, PEOPLE! This was at Market Basket in Fall River." -Dennis Malenfant.

"When I went to the Stop & Shop in Fairhaven this afternoon. You're pigs! Do you alone deserve protection? Lazy, look ahead: there is a trash can. Irresponsible pigs! The white gloves are not the same they are in different points. ? It is a lack of respect for the employees who are there to serve you too. ??Lazy idiots. ???" -Mari Rowe.



Photo by Mari Rowe.

OPINION: “Enough is Enough!! New Bedford public transit is not be used just because you’re bored!”

This was sent to us from a New Bedford bus driver:

“Enough is Enough !!

Just because public transit is running doesn’t mean we are here for you to spend your time riding around for no reason other than boredom. We are designated as an essential service in our city we are not here for you because you have nothing else to do!! We are not here for you because you feel like getting out of the house for a while.

We are in a state of emergency and this not a vacation!! Every passenger that steps on our bus puts us the operators at risk , we really don't want to be here but we realize how important our service is for some passengers. You don't see how many times a day we wash our hands and sanitize our buses to keep us and our passengers safe.

You do not see our families who worry about us every minute we are at work. We have our jobs to do and we realize the importance of our job is to you. So please only use the service for essential rides!! Our management and the Authority have made every attempt to help us be safe and now we need the public's help!!

I am speaking on behalf of the operators and maintenance staff of Amalgamated Transit Union local 1037 here in New Bedford Ma. "We Move This City"

Please share our message it doesn't matter what city you're in!!" – Tony Sousa.

New Bedford resident saddened by the selfish hoarding during the COVID-19 outbreak

"My heart really breaks for those of us that really need certain items of food or even necessities.

I went to Walmart in Dartmouth and let me tell you: too many Greedy jerks there today! This guy really tried buying 8 gallons of water and flipped out on the cashier when she said: "I'm sorry sir, but we have a limit."

My granddaughter is autistic and has many sensory issues with foods and toilet paper. I needed wipes for her and not one thing was there. Not to mention the babies needing these.

I hope all of you that are hoarding and not caring about others, get what you deserve! We are supposed to think of others and because you think it's OK not to think of others?

You are WTF is wrong with this country! [Jennifer Lee Staples-Villegas] – feeling heartbroken.”