

New Bedford Ready to Host 40th Annual Half Marathon

Race Begins at 11:00 a.m. Sharp on Sunday, March 19, 2017

On Sunday, March 19, 2017, thousands of runners will participate in the 40 th Annual New Bedford Half Marathon. The race is hosted by the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, a New Bedford based fraternal organization, and the City of New Bedford. The course is a challenging one that includes two major hills, waterfront views, and will be lined with hundreds of volunteers and cheering fans.

Organizers have taken great care to ensure that the New Bedford Half Marathon continues to maintain its reputation as one of the safest races in New England. More than 120 New Bedford police officers will patrol the course and ambulances staffed by New Bedford Emergency Medical Services will be stationed throughout the city. The New Bedford Police Department has asked runners and spectators not to bring bags to the course as backpacks, suitcases and rolling bags will not be permitted near the start/finish area. The New Bedford Police Department is also asking spectators and runners alike to report any suspicious activity to one of the many police officers available throughout the course leading up to, during, and after the race.

Parking on the race course will not be permitted and “no parking” signs will be posted along the route to warn motorists. In addition, the race course is closed to vehicular traffic and residents are advised to plan ahead as traffic will be restricted from approximately 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. New Bedford Police encourage residents who live in the south end of the city, especially those who live on the peninsula, to plan to leave before 10:30 a.m. and return after 1:30 p.m. Residents are encouraged to avoid Route 18 southbound from

Union Street south while the race is underway.

The New Bedford Police Department has identified two alternative routes for persons wishing to gain access inside the course perimeter. Persons who may be visiting a patient at St. Luke's Hospital or who need access to the inner perimeter for other reasons should consider the following routes:

1. Rt. 195 East bound to Penniman Street exit to County to Parker to Cottage St.
2. Rt. 195 Westbound to Downtown Exit to Rt. 18 Southbound to Rt. 6 exit (Downtown) to Mill Street to Cottage Street.



Mayor Jon Mitchell has announced that the City of New Bedford will offer complimentary parking at the Elm Street and Zeiterion garages and Whale's Tooth Parking Lot. Shuttle service from Whale's Tooth Parking Lot to the YMCA will be provided between 8:00AM and 10:30AM and after the race between 12:45PM and 2:00PM.

The entire New Bedford community is involved in welcoming the runners and their friends and families. New Bedford is a great place to shop, dine and explore before and after the race. Please visit **www.destinationnewbedford.org** for more information.

For more information on the race and race day activities please visit: **www.newbedfordhalfmarathon.com**