

# Two shootings reported Monday night in New Bedford

Two shootings occurred in New Bedford within two hours of each other Monday night – the first at Temple Landing and the second at Brickenwood New Bedford Housing Authority. Two people were sent to St. Luke's hospital for treatment.

The first shooting was reported around 8 pm at the 160-block of Chancery Street near the Temple Landing (formerly United Front) affordable housing units. New Bedford police report that one person was shot in the leg and a second victim sustained injuries, but police can't confirm that it was from a bullet.

The second shooting was reported at 9:55 pm at the Brickenwood New Bedford Housing Authority complex at 4 Malden Street. According to police logs, a motor vehicle was damaged but no reports of any injuries.

Police are actively investigating both incidents.

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# Dominican National Sentenced for Stealing \$45,000 in Government Benefits

A Dominican national was sentenced today in federal court in Boston for making false statements in applications for Social Security benefits and a U.S. passport.

Daniel Polonia Morillo, 57, of Lawrence, was sentenced by U.S.

District Court Judge Denise J. Casper to 12 months in prison, two years of supervised release and ordered to pay \$45,162.63 in restitution. Polonia Morillo will be subject to deportation upon completion of his sentence. In May 2019, Polonia Morillo pleaded guilty to making a false statement on an application for Social Security benefits, making a false statement in an application and use of a passport and theft of public money. Polonia Morillo was charged in October 2018 and has been in custody since then.

Polonia Morillo used the name, Social Security number, and date of birth of a U.S. citizen to apply for Social Security benefits in December 2016. At the time he applied, Polonia Morillo produced a United States passport in the other person's name as proof of his identity. In addition, Polonia Morillo used the identity of the U.S. citizen to fraudulently obtain Medicaid benefits from March 2012 through October 2018 and food stamps from April 2015 through October 2018 totaling over \$45,000.

United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling; Scott Antolik, Special Agent in Charge of the Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General, Boston Field Office; Jason Molina, Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations in Boston; and Suzanne M. Bump, State Auditor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts made the announcement today. Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Karen Burzycki of Lelling's Major Crimes Unit prosecuted the case.

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## **Dominican National Sentenced**

# in Massachusetts for Fifth Illegal Reentry

A Dominican national who is facing cocaine trafficking charges was sentenced today in federal court in Boston for illegally reentering the United States after being previously deported on four separate occasions.

Lenny Soto-Mateo, 36, a Dominican national residing in Lynn, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Richard G. Stearns to 51 months in prison, to be followed by one year of supervised release. Soto-Mateo will be subject to deportation upon completion of his sentence. On May 22, 2019, Soto-Mateo pleaded guilty to one-count of being a previously deported alien.

Soto-Mateo had been arrested, prosecuted, and deported on four previous occasions, in 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2017. Sometime after his last removal in 2017, Soto-Mateo reentered the United States without permission. On Aug. 28, 2018, Soto-Mateo was arrested by the Boston Police Department and charged with trafficking in cocaine, and charges are currently pending in the Suffolk County Superior Court.

United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling and Marcos D. Charles, Acting Field Office Director, Boston, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Enforcement and Removal Operations, made the announcement today. Assistant U.S. Attorney Kenneth G. Shine of Lelling's Major Crimes Unit prosecuted the case.

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# **Massachusetts Environmental Police seize 384 pounds of illegally caught black sea bass**

On Saturday, August 24, 2019, an Officer on patrol in the vicinity of Wychmere Harbor in Harwich observed an individual loading fish pots into the rear of a pickup truck. Further inspection found the individual, who was commercially permitted, to be in possession of 384 pounds of black sea bass on a closed commercial fishing day. The entire catch was seized and the individual was criminally summonsed for failure to display catch, landing black sea bass on a closed commercial day, and over the limit possession of black sea bass.

For information regarding saltwater fishing regulations, visit <https://www.mass.gov/marine-fisheries-regulations>

To report poaching, please contact MEP Dispatch at 1-800-632-8075. Violations can also be reported online at <http://bit.ly/MEPReport>.

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## **Massachusetts State Police Community Action Team arrests**

# man for Fentanyl trafficking in New Bedford

A traffic stop in New Bedford yesterday led to the arrest of a man for trafficking in fentanyl, among other charges.

At about 5:20 p.m., troopers assigned to the Troop D Community Action Team stopped a 2019 Nissan Altima for suspected illegal window tint. During their contact with the operator, the troopers observed a knife in plain view and subsequently determined that its size was in violation of a city ordinance.

The operator, ALEX BARBOZA, 29, of New Bedford, was placed under arrest for the city ordinance violation. A subsequent inventory of his vehicle prior to towing led to the discovery and seizure of approximately 10 grams of a substance believed to be fentanyl, approximately one pound of a substance believed to be marijuana, 100 cartridges of CBD oil, and two small bottles of a substance believed to be anabolic steroids. Troopers also located and seized more than \$26,000.00, which was located in the vehicle and on BARBOZA.

BARBOZA was booked at the State Police Barracks in North Dartmouth on the following charges:

- Municipal by-law or ordinance violation (knife)
- Trafficking in fentanyl
- Possession of a Class A substance with intent to distribute
- Possession of a Class C drug
- Possession with intent to distribute a Class D drug (2 counts)

BARBOZA was additionally cited for a window tint violation. He was transported to the Ash Street Jail in New Bedford pending his arraignment in New Bedford District Court on Monday.

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# **New Bedford man charged with OUI after hitting Brooklawn Park wall**

29-year old Marcos Araujo of New Bedford is being charged with OUI-liquor after hitting Brooklawn Park wall just before 1 am on Thursday.

According to New Bedford police, the responded to a call of an accident involving a single car hitting the wall at Brooklawn Park on Acushnet Ave. in New Bedford's north end. Officers determined the driver was operating his vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. No other vehicles were damaged and the driver was uninjured.

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# **New Bedford Child Rapist to Serve up to 20 Years in Prison**

A 31-year-old New Bedford man was convicted at trial yesterday of charges related to the systematic sexual assault of a prepubescent girl and was sentenced to serve 15 to 20 years in state prison, Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced.

Ronald Teixeira was convicted of two counts of rape of a child

and three counts of indecent assault and battery on a person under the age of 14. The defendant was convicted by Fall River Superior Court Judge Thomas McGuire at the conclusion of a two-day bench trial.

Between February of 2013 and May of 2014, the defendant was living in a home in New Bedford with the victim and the victim's mother. During that time the defendant raped and sexually molested the girl on numerous occasions. The victim eventually reported the assaults to her mother about two years after they occurred.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Thompson, who argued for a 20 to 25 years state prison term. The defense, however, recommended a more lenient two-year state prison sentence.

In addition to the 15 to 20-year state prison term, Judge McGuire also placed the defendant on supervised probation for an additional 10 years. The defendant must register as a sex offender, must complete sex offender counseling and can have no unsupervised contact with children during the pendency of his post-release probationary term.

"I am very pleased that the court held the victim accountable for his outrageous behavior. The defendant took advantage of his relationship with the victim's mother to engage in despicable conduct with an eight-year-old child. I commend the victim for coming forward and testifying against the defendant," District Attorney Quinn said.

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# Massachusetts State Troopers and K9 capture fleeing, wanted man from New Bedford

Shortly before 11 p.m. Wednesday, Massachusetts State Police patrols and an MSP K9 unit responded to Industrial Park Road at Bay Street in Taunton to assist Norton Police in the apprehension of a male suspect who had fled. The suspect, identified as NICHOLAS SLAVIN, 30, of New Bedford, and who was wanted by Norton Police on two warrants, had been last seen near a Holiday Inn located in the industrial park.

A witness subsequently stated that the suspect had entered a gray or silver sedan. Trooper Cory Melo, assigned to State Police-Middleboro, entered the industrial park and observed a vehicle matching that description. Trooper Melo and MSP K9 Section Trooper Christopher Thurlow, who had also responded with his K9 partner Devaney, pulled behind the suspect vehicle as it took a right on Bay Street. As Trooper Melo stopped the vehicle, which was a 2004 gray Audi Quattro, suspect SLAVIN, who was in the passenger seat, got out and ran into a plaza near a Dunkin Donuts and a 7-Eleven store. By this time, additional State Police patrols were responding to the plaza. Trooper Thurlow issued a warning that he would release his K9 if the suspect continued to flee.

The suspect continued to run and Trooper Thurlow sent K9 Devaney on an apprehension. At the same time, Trooper Nicholas Lorenzo and Trooper John Pina rounded the corner of the plaza and assisted Trooper Melo in the pursuit.

The fleeing suspect, who was trying to scale a fence, then looked back at the charging Devaney and the converging Troopers, yelled "I give up," and dropped to the ground behind a dumpster. Trooper Thurlow recalled Devaney as the dog



reached the dumpster, and two of the other Troopers took SLAVIN into custody.

Troopers transported SLAVIN to State Police-Middleboro, where he was booked on the war

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## **DNA Evidence Results in Jail Term for New Bedford Indecent Assault**

A 61-year-old Falmouth man who sexually assaulted a passed out female acquaintance in New Bedford last September was convicted last week in New Bedford District Court and sentenced to serve two years in the Bristol County House of Corrections, Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced.

Russell Lopes pleaded guilty in New Bedford District Court to charges of indecent assault and battery, and larceny.

On September 14, 2018, the defendant and the victim drove from Falmouth to New Bedford together in a Silverado pickup truck. Once in New Bedford, they picked up a woman, who was a stranger to them both.

The three of them began drinking heavily for the next few hours. While the victim was passed out drunk in the back of the vehicle, the defendant reached into her pants and raped her while making lewd comments to the other woman. The other woman immediately left the truck and contacted her husband, who arrived onto West Rodney French Boulevard to meet up with his wife. The husband then drove to a known crack house on

Tallman Street in New Bedford and dropped the victim off. He then drove the defendant back to Falmouth.

The victim was taken to the hospital when a resident of the Tallman Street address found the victim drunk and unconscious, having fallen down and hurt herself. At the hospital, a rape kit was performed on the victim. During the investigation, Assistant District Attorney Shawn Guilderson successfully motioned the court to allow for a buccal DNA swab of the defendant, which matched semen and saliva found in and on the victim's vagina.

During sentencing, Assistant District Attorney Guilderson argued that the defendant, who has previously been convicted of indecent assault and batteries, should serve the maximum two-and-a-half year jail sentence. The defense, however, requested a sentence of 18 months in jail. Judge Katie Rayburn sentenced the defendant to two years in the house of corrections.

"I am very pleased this defendant will be held accountable for his offensive conduct. The defendant has a history of convictions for indecent assaults and needs to be kept off the streets to protect the public. This case highlights the importance of Modern technology in solving what would have been an otherwise difficult case," District Attorney Quinn said.

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# **Massachusetts State Police K9 Kody locates domestic**

# violence suspect hiding in overgrown weeds

At 11 p.m. Wednesday, State Police-Brookfield patrols and K9 units responded to an address in Warren to assist Warren Police and Ware Police in searching for a male suspect who had fled following a domestic assault in Ware.

Warren Police had located the suspect's vehicle, a Mazda 3 hatchback, and pursued it to the rear of the man's residence in Warren. The suspect fled the vehicle on foot and made threats to Warren officers that he had a firearm and would use it. The 26-year-old suspect avoided capture by running into the woods.

State Police patrols and two State K9 teams began assisting local police in the search for the suspect. MSP K9 Section Trooper Kurt D'Angelo and his partner, Kody (pictured), began working from the place the suspect was last seen. Kody went back to the abandoned vehicle, and then worked his way out from the vehicle. Kody then acquired a track down a path and over a large stone wall into an adjacent yard. He continued to track along another stone wall and into another yard.

Continuing their track, Kody and Trooper D'Angelo, assisted by Trooper John Doherty, then jumped down from a five-foot-high wall and went across the road into yet another yard. Kody tracked to a fence and then began displaying erratic behavior around a large overgrown patch of weeds behind the fence.

Trooper D'Angelo gave commands to anyone in the weeds to surrender. There was no response. Kody then entered the weeds and located the suspect passed out. Trooper D'Angelo gave additional commands, and the suspect sat up and was taken into custody by the Troopers and turned over to Ware Police.

Per state law, MSP does not identify suspects arrested for

domestic violence.