

# Former Mass. State Trooper sentenced to two months for overtime abuse

A suspended Massachusetts State Police Trooper was sentenced today in federal court in Boston in connection with being paid over \$5,900 for overtime hours that he did not work.

Kevin Sweeney, 40, of Braintree, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Nathaniel M. Gorton to two months in prison, one year of supervised release (the first three months of which will be served in home detention), and was ordered to pay a fine of \$4,000 and restitution in the amount of \$11,103. In September 2018, Sweeney pleaded guilty to one count of embezzlement from an agency receiving federal funds and one count of wire fraud.

Sweeney was an MSP Trooper assigned to Troop E, which was responsible for enforcing criminal and traffic regulations along the Massachusetts Turnpike, Interstate I-90. In 2016, Sweeney earned \$218,512, which included over \$95,000 in overtime pay.

Sweeney admitted that between Sept. 1, 2016, and Dec. 31, 2016, he was paid over \$5,900 for overtime shifts that he either did not work at all or from which he left early and that his fraudulent citations cost the Commonwealth more than \$5,000. Sweeney concealed his fraud by submitting fraudulent citations designed to create the appearance that he had worked overtime hours that he had not, and falsely claimed in MSP paperwork and payroll entries that he had worked the entirety of his overtime shifts.

For example, on Dec. 14, 2016, Sweeney claimed in MSP payroll submissions and other paperwork to have worked a "D AIRE" overtime shift from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Sweeney claimed to

have written eight motor vehicle citations during that shift and submitted copies of those citations to MSP as evidence that he had worked. Yet, Sweeney's cruiser radio was not turned on during the overtime shift, he did not run any driver histories during the shift, and Registry of Motor Vehicle (RMV) records reflect that none of the motorists that Sweeney claims to have cited actually received a citation that day.

In another instance, on Dec. 21, 2016, the RMV did have copies of two of the citations Sweeney claimed to have written during the overtime shift he claimed to have worked, but closer inspection revealed that Sweeney had falsified the times of those citations on the copies submitted to the MSP. The RMV copies revealed that the citations had been written at 5:00 p.m. and 5:05 p.m., which was written on the citations in military time as "1700" and "1705." On the copies of those same citations submitted to MSP, however, Sweeney changed "1700" and "1705" to "700" and "705" so that it would appear to MSP that the citations had been written during the 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. overtime shift that Sweeney did not work. And, like Dec. 14, Sweeney's cruiser radio was not turned on during the overtime shift, he did not run any driver histories during the shift, and Registry of Motor Vehicle (RMV) records reflect that the other six motorists that Sweeney claims to have cited did not actually receive a citation that day.

The overtime in question involved the Accident and Injury Reduction Effort program (AIRE) and the "X-Team" initiative, which were intended to reduce accidents, crashes, and injuries on I-90 through an enhanced presence of MSP Troopers assigned to target vehicles traveling at excessive speeds.

In 2016, MSP received annual benefits from the U.S. Department of Transportation in excess of \$10,000, which were funded pursuant to numerous federal grants.

United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling; Joseph R. Bonavolonta, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of

Investigation, Boston Field Division; and Douglas Shoemaker, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Office of Inspector General made the announcement today. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Dustin Chao and Mark Grady of Lelling's Public Corruption Unit prosecuted the case.

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## **Man charged with OUI after speeding and "going airborne" on Cranberry Highway**

On Wednesday at 1:30 a.m., while on patrol, Wareham police officer Stephen Harrison observed a vehicle operating at a high rate of speed on Cranberry Highway near Red Brook Road. He observed the vehicle strike an embankment near the Star Light Motel and go airborne, crashing down on two wheels, crossing the entire highway. Officer Harrison noted that he believed the vehicle was going to flip over, however it continued on, and finally pulled into a nearby parking lot.

After making various observations 41-year old Brian Smith of Pocasset was placed under arrest and charged with operating under the influence of liquor, negligent operation of a vehicle, speeding, and a marked lanes violation.

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# Joint police raid nets large amount of crack cocaine, fentanyl from Wareham home

After a joint investigation between Wareham and Fairhaven Police detectives, as well the US Drug Enforcement Administration, an East Wareham address was raided on Friday morning at about 9:00 a.m. based on a search warrant obtained by the Fairhaven police. Several detectives assisted by members of the Plymouth County Sheriff's Department K-9 unit forced entry into the home located at 6 Bartlett Lane.

As a result of the raid, detectives confiscated over 530 grams of suspected cocaine and crack cocaine, over 19 grams of fentanyl, Suboxone, as well bags and scales in the home.



Robert Ward, 58, was arrested and charged with, trafficking in more than 200 grams of cocaine, trafficking in fentanyl and illegal possession of a class "B" drug subsequent offense.

Acting Chief John Walcek said, "As a result of an intensive

investigation and cooperation among both local police departments and the DEA, a large amount of illegal drugs were seized.” He added, “The detectives involved in the case did an outstanding job and I am very proud of them.”

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## **Massachusetts State Police K9 “Neko” tracks suspect who fired gun into neighborhood**

At approximately 2:25 a.m. State Police patrols and an MSP K9 team responded to the area of Samoset Road in Woburn to assist local police in searching for a man who fired a gun in a residential area and fled on foot.

State Police K9 Section Trooper Dan Purtell deployed his partner Neko at the place the suspect was last scene. Neko acquired the suspect’s scent and tracked from that yard across the street into a backyard on Anna Road. Neko then returned to the original back yard he was in behind the house where the incident occurred, pulled behind a shed, and then continued down to a stream.

Neko tracked along the stream, then went up an embankment and jumped a chainlink fence into another yard. There, he tried to pull through a broken wooden fence. Trooper Purtell opened a gate and Neko pulled back across Anna Road again into another backyard, where he jumped another fence and became frantic and started to whine. He pulled past a shed in that backyard, did a big circle in the yard, and came back to the shed. Neko began to whine, jumped on top of a trash barrel and attempted to jump on top of the shed. Trooper Purtell restrained Neko from jumping on the shed; Neko then alerted to the shed and

began barking.

Three officers established tactical positions along with Trooper Purtell and Neko outside the shed.

Trooper Purtell issued commands ordering anyone in the shed to surrender, and quickly heard a voice from inside yell, "OK, I don't have a gun!" Trooper Purtell ordered the suspect to slowly walk out the door with his hands on his head, which he did.

The suspect was placed in custody without incident; police searched the shed and did not locate the firearm.

Trooper Purtell and Neko then began a search for the gun, back tracking along their initial route to the shed. When they got to the first backyard on Anna Road that Neko had entered near the start of the search, Neko began circling and zig-zagging across yard before crouching down and staring at Trooper Purtell.

Trooper Purtell looked down and saw a black semi-automatic pistol under Neko's paws.

Woburn Police detectives photographed the pistol and secured it, and later located two shell casings in the house where the incident began.

The suspect tracked by Trooper Purtell and Neko was charged with unlawful possession of a firearm and unlawful discharge of a firearm within 500 feet of a dwelling; he was also the subject of an outstanding warrant. Because the initial incident is believed to be domestic in nature, his name is not being released at this time.

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# **14-year old killed in fatal dog mauling in Dighton**

Police are actively investigating an apparent fatal dog mauling, which occurred this evening in Dighton.

At 7:59 p.m. this evening, Dighton Police received a 911 call regarding the discovery of a deceased male on the property of 2577 Maple Swamp Road. The 911 call was placed by a neighbor, who found the deceased.

The deceased is a 14-year-old from Rehoboth. Foul play is not suspected at this time. The dogs are being taken into the custody of animal control in the area.

As the investigation into the incident has just begun, no further information can be released at this time.

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# **Massachusetts State Police add two to list of “Most Wanted” fugitives; Suspects wanted in separate shootings**

The Massachusetts State Police today added two new suspects to our Most Wanted Fugitives list, each involved in separate shootings in Springfield. Both men are actively being sought by the State Police Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section and Springfield Police.

**DANIEL L. RODRIGUEZ**, 18 (turns 19 on May 12), is wanted on

charges of armed assault with intent to murder, aggravated assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, intimidation of a witness, and unlawful carrying of a loaded firearm, all in connection with a shooting that occurred on Dwight Street, Springfield, on the night of July 28, 2018. Responding Springfield officers located a male victim with a gunshot wound to his neck; the man survived but was paralyzed from his chest down. After an extensive investigation, Springfield Police identified RODRIGUEZ as the suspected shooter and obtained a warrant for his arrest in January 2019.

Intelligence indicates RODRIGUEZ is a member of the Worthy Boys Posse street gang. He is believed to be actively trying to evade law enforcement and should be considered armed and dangerous. He is Hispanic, with light skin, about 5' 11" tall and 150 lbs., with brown hair and brown eyes. He is also known by aliases "Bebo," "X," and "Dex," and has a tattoo of the word "Kailiane" on his left forearm.



## DANIEL L. RODRIGUEZ



2017 PHOTO

WANTED FOR:  
**Armed Assault to Murder  
Carry Loaded Firearm  
Aggravated A&B W/ Dangerous Weapon**

DOB:.....05/12/2000

Height:.....5'- 11"

Weight:.....150 lbs.

Hair:.....Brown

Eyes:.....Brown

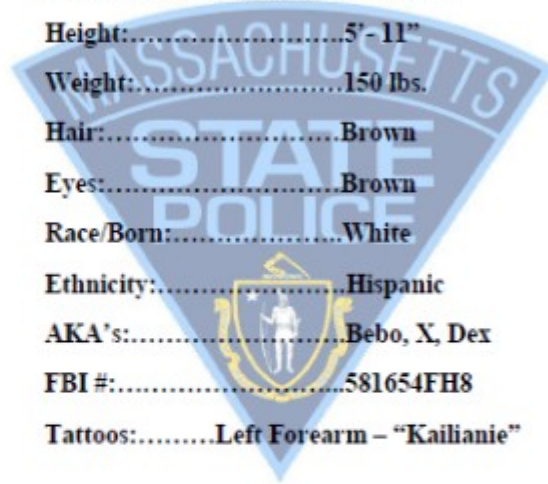
Race/Born:.....White

Ethnicity:.....Hispanic

AKA's:.....Bebo, X, Dex

FBI #:.....581654FH8

Tattoos:.....Left Forearm – "Kailianie"



On Saturday, July 28, 2018, the Springfield Police Department responded to a shooting on Dwight Street shortly before 11:00PM. Upon arrival, a seriously injured male was discovered with a gunshot wound to the neck. The male survived but was paralyzed from the chest down. After an extensive investigation, Springfield PD Detectives identified Daniel L. RODRIGUEZ as the alleged shooter and were granted an arrest warrant in January of 2019 for charges to include Armed Assault to Murder, Carry Loaded Firearm Without a License, Aggravated Assault & Battery With a Dangerous Weapon, Intimidation of a Witness and related. RODRIGUEZ is a validated member of the Worthy Boys Posse street gang in Springfield, is actively avoiding law enforcement and should be considered Armed and Dangerous. He has two small scars next to his left eye and a tattoo on his left forearm of "Kailianie." Massachusetts warrant #1979CR00123, warrant #1923CR000175 and warrant #17YO0008SP have been issued for the arrest of RODRIGUEZ with Nationwide Extradition authorized.

### **Massachusetts State Police: Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section 1-800-KAPTURE (1-800-527-8873)**

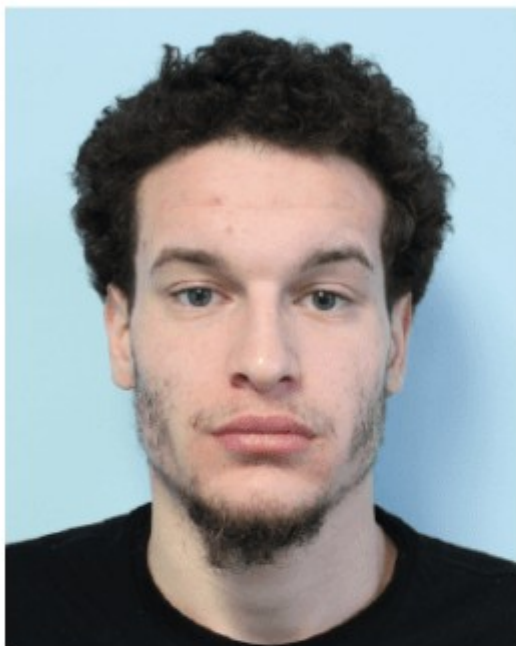
**"HE ESCAPES WHO IS NOT PURSUED" - SOPHOCLES**

**ALEZANDER LIRIANO**, 21, is wanted on charges of assault and battery with a firearm, armed robbery, and discharging a firearm within 500 feet of a building following the shooting of a female victim on the morning of March 5, 2019 at the intersection of Dickinson Street and Lansing Place in Springfield. The woman, who was shot in the torso, suffered serious injuries but survived. An investigation by Springfield Police determined that LIRIANO allegedly shot the woman during a street robbery, and detectives obtained an arrest warrant. LIRIANO is also wanted on a separate warrant for breaking and entering.

LIRIANO is aware he is being sought by law enforcement and

should be considered armed and dangerous; he has ties throughout western Massachusetts. LIRIANO is Hispanic, with light skin, about 6'2" tall and 180 lbs., with dark brown hair and brown/hazel eyes. He is also known by the aliases "Alec," "Krazy," and "Crazy," and has two tattoos of note: The word "Amparo" on his left forearm and the word "Moe" on his left wrist, and has a small scar on one of his hands.

## ALECZANDER LIRIANO



2019 PHOTO

### WANTED FOR:

**Armed Robbery-Firearm  
Discharge Firearm Within 500 Ft of Building  
A&B with Firearm**

DOB:.....09/15/97  
Height:.....6'-02"  
Weight:.....180 lbs.  
Hair:.....Dark Brown  
Eyes:.....Brown/Hazel  
Race/Born:.....White  
Ethnicity:.....Hispanic  
AKA's:.....Alec, Krazy, Crazy  
FBI #:.....796478MD5  
Tattoos: .....Left Forearm - "Amparo"  
Left Wrist "Moe"

Shortly after 11:00 AM on March 5, 2019, the Springfield Police Department responded to a shooting at the intersection of Dickinson Street and Lansing Place. A female was discovered lying in the street suffering from a gunshot wound to the torso. She was transported to a local hospital with serious injuries but survived. An investigation by Springfield PD revealed that Alec Zander LIRIANO allegedly shot the female during a street robbery and a warrant issued out of Springfield District Court for Armed Robbery-Firearm, Discharge Firearm Within 500' of Building and A&B With Firearm. LIRIANO has a second warrant for Breaking & Entering as well as previous convictions in Massachusetts for Armed Robbery, Larceny From a Person and multiple counts of Assault & Battery. LIRIANO has visible tattoos on his arms, a small scar on his hand and should be considered Armed and Dangerous. He is aware he is being sought by law enforcement and has ties throughout Western Massachusetts. Warrant #1923CR001424 and warrant #1723CR006416 have been issued for the arrest of LIRIANO with Nationwide Extradition authorized.

## Massachusetts State Police: Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section

**1-800-KAPTURE (1-800-527-8873)**

**"HE ESCAPES WHO IS NOT PURSUED" - SOPHOCLES**

Anyone who sees either DANIEL RODRIGUEZ or ALECZANDER LIRIANO should not approach them, but should call 911 immediately. Anyone with information about their whereabouts should call 911 or State Police Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section at 1-800-KAPTURE (1-800-527-8873). Wanted posters for both

fugitives are included with this release.

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## **Westport Police seek public assistance in near fatal hit and run**

Police are actively seeking the public's assistance in locating witnesses to a hit and run which occurred Tuesday evening on Old Bedford Road in Westport and left a 30-year-old Fall River woman in critical condition.

Westport Police received a 911 call around 8:15 pm Tuesday evening to report a crash and a severely injured woman in the area of 288 Old Bedford Road. When first responders arrived, they located the victim, Stephanie Tripp, face down in the breakdown lane suffering from serious injuries. The victim was rushed to Rhode Island Hospital, where she remains in critical condition.

A preliminary investigation has revealed the victim was walking along the side of the roadway when she was struck by a sedan-style vehicle. The male operator of the vehicle exited the car and apparently told a witness he was sorry and didn't mean to hit the victim. A witness told the driver to stay on the scene, but as the witness was providing aid to the victim, the driver sped off in an easterly direction on Old Bedford Road. Another witness attempted to follow the suspect's vehicle, which, according to the witness, was traveling at high rates of speed and passing vehicles by swerving into the opposite travel lane. The witness lost the suspect's vehicle in the area of Faunce Corner Road in Dartmouth.

The vehicle's last known location was at the corner of Old Fall River Road and Faunce Corner Road in Dartmouth at around 8:30 pm. The vehicle may have sustained minor front end damage.

Although officers spoke with several witnesses who remained on scene, there is reason to believe that other witnesses may have seen the crash, the vehicle that struck the victim or may have information about the driver.

If anyone was in the area and saw anything, or have information about this case, they are urged to contact Massachusetts State Police Trooper Phil Giardino at 508-993-1928 or Westport Police at 508-636-1122. Residents can also submit a tip about this case anonymously by utilizing our anonymous text a tip program. To anonymously text a tip to us, text the word "Bristol" to the phone number CRIMES (274637). Then just text us your tip. You can also submit a web-based anonymous tip by going to <https://new.tipsubmit.com/en/create-report/anonymous/da.bristol.ma.us>.

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## **Narcotics investigation leads to multi-town high-speed chase**

"On Wednesday, May 8 at approximately 1:45PM, our department was notified of a high-speed pursuit entering our town from Rochester. The pursuit began in the city of New Bedford as a result of a narcotics investigation.

Once in town, the suspect attempted to evade capture by

parking in the St. Francis Xavier Elementary School parking lot.

A member of the APD was able to locate the suspect and with the assistance of the City of New Bedford Police Department (Official), Fairhaven Police Department, Mattapoisett Police Department, Bristol County Sheriff's Office and the Massachusetts State Police they were able to quickly and safely place the suspect in custody without endangering the safety of children and staff of the St. Francis Xavier Elementary School.

We would also like to send a huge thank you to the Administration and staff at the St Francis Xavier Elementary School. Also and even more impressive was the great listening skills of the students!

The suspect will be facing a slew of charges in various jurisdictions throughout the South Coast.

Again, a big thank you and GREAT JOB to all the agencies involved!!!!!" -Acushnet Police Department

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## **New Bedford Police's Narcotics Division arrest 9 males during an undercover prostitution sting**

On Tuesday, May 7, members of the New Bedford Police Department's Narcotic Unit conducted an undercover sting Tuesday evening, targeting prostitution in the North End of

the city.

The sting was coordinated because of concerned neighbors notifying police of increased prostitution activity in the area. An undercover female officer posed as a prostitute and was approached by 9 men who agreed to engage in sex for a fee. The sting concentrated on the 1300 block of Acushnet Avenue and the surrounding area. Detectives acted on complaints from area residents, which prompted a quick response to their complaints.

Arrested as part of the sting were; William Lanna, 39, 176 Eliza Street, Providence, R.I.; Santos Chach-Lopez, 34, 1416 Acushnet Ave., New Bedford; Juan Garcia, 33, 181 Ashley Blvd., New Bedford; Carlos Mendes, 37, 422 Shaw St., New Bedford; Willie Ayers, 34, 50 Tallman St., New Bedford; Jonathan Rivera, 31, 37 Yale St., New Bedford; Sabino Barrera-Grave, 23, 109 Tallman St., New Bedford; Miguel Pacheco, 44, 1406 Acushnet Ave., New Bedford; and Domingo Choc, 63, 45 Tallman St., New Bedford.

All were due to be arraigned at Third District Court on Wednesday, May 8, 2019.

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**Massachusetts State Troopers  
seize illegally possessed  
firearms and narcotics in**

# joint effort

At approximately 8:30 p.m. Monday, Massachusetts State Police Troopers assigned to the Commonwealth Interstate Narcotics Reduction Enforcement Team-West (CINRET), the Massachusetts State Police Gang Unit, along with Holyoke Police and numerous other State Police units and arrested two men on illegal firearms and narcotics charges in Holyoke.

The arrests followed an investigation into illegal interstate firearms trafficking. Specifically, MSP CINRET Troopers developed information that the suspects would be bringing multiple long guns into Massachusetts to exchange for cash or heroin and cocaine.

Troopers and officers yesterday evening established surveillance of an area where they believed the suspects would be arriving in a Nissan Xterra sport utility vehicle. in which the men were traveling. Law enforcement officers watched as the Xterra pulled into a parking lot at a Holyoke hotel.

Once Troopers and officers confirmed that the suspects were in possession of weapons, Troopers from the Massachusetts State Police Special Tactical Operations Team converged on the two men and put them into custody.

Arrested were: **TIMOTHY KEITH**, 32, of White River Junction, Vt., and **PHILLIP DAMONE**, 33, of Grantham, N.H.

MSP CINRET Troopers determined neither KEITH nor DAMONE possessed a Firearms Identification Card or License to Carry in Massachusetts. They further determined that as a convicted felon KEITH was federally prohibited from possessing or transferring firearms.

KEITH and DAMONE were charged with numerous firearms and ammunition offenses, including multiple counts of possession of large capacity weapons. They were also charged with

possession of a Class A narcotic.

Evidence seized pursuant to the arrests included the following firearms and ammunition:

- Smith & Wesson M&P 15-22 large capacity rifle;
- Ruger, Archangel 556, 10/22 large capacity rifle;
- Rock River Arms LAR-15 5.56 large capacity rifle;
- Savage Model 93R17 .22 rifle;
- FN Herstal 12 gauge Tactical Police Shotgun 12 Gauge;
- Rossi Circuit Judge 45/ 410 gauge shotgun;
- 10 large capacity feeding devices; and
- Hundreds of rounds of ammunition.
- Also seized from the men were four small packets of a substance believed to be heroin.

Troopers also determined that KEITH is the subject of a 2018 warrant issued out of New Hampshire for failing to appear in court for a drug smuggling related charge.

KEITH and DAMONE were transported to the Holyoke Police Department, where they were booked and held for court.

In addition to CINRET West, the MSP Gang Unit, the MSP STOP Team, and the Holyoke Police Department, other units and officers who provided important assistance were Troopers from the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit for Hampden County, members of the Massachusetts State Police Hampshire/Franklin Narcotics Task Force, and agents from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. The successful outcome was the result of a cooperative effort.