

Mayor Jon Mitchell to hold November Neighborhood Office Hours at Jade Garden

Mayor Mitchell will hold neighborhood office hours for the Month of November on Wednesday, November 7 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Jade Garden Restaurant, 1309 Phillips Road.

Mayor Mitchell announced he would set aside time each month to hold office hours in city neighborhoods so that residents could meet with him outside of normal business hours and in their own neighborhood.

In his State of the City this year, the Mayor announced that a new format of office hours would be established, inviting residents to join him at local restaurants in different neighborhoods of the city. Food will be available at the office hours.

City residents are invited to attend the neighborhood office hours to meet with Mayor Mitchell directly and share their concerns and ideas, as well as a bite to eat. The sessions are open to all New Bedford residents, no advance appointments are required and meetings with the Mayor will be done on a first come, first served basis.

**PODCAST: Dawn Saurette
addressing the Fall River**

City Council

During the public time at the Fall River City Council meeting Tuesday evening, Dawn Saurette provided an update on the recall petition against Mayor Jasiel Correia and why she feels strongly about it.

New Bedford Police Union endorses Geoff Diehl for Senate

Geoff Diehl's campaign announced today that he officially has the **support of the New Bedford Police Union**:

Geoff Diehl "refused to bow to the mob mentality of painting all law enforcement groups with the same broad brush of resentment and anger," wrote President Hank Turgeon in the official endorsement communication. "The New Bedford Police Union is proud to endorse and support your candidacy for the U.S. Senate."

Diehl has also received endorsements from former Governor's Councilor David Constantine (D-New Bedford).

The latest poll has incumbent Senator Elizabeth Warren **comfortably ahead 25 points**.

Mayor Mitchell request \$300 fine for unattended clothing donation bins

New Bedford Mayor Mitchell has submitted ordinance changes that would fine owners of clothing donation bins \$300 for not maintaining them and allowing them to overflow. The changes will be taken up by the New Bedford City Council this evening at 7pm.

According to New Bedford Mayor's spokesman Jonathan Carvalho:

"The intention of the ordinance is to ensure safe and sanitary public spaces near clothing donation bins, with bins collected in a timely manner. City departments hear from concerned residents about donation bins in their neighborhoods that are overflowing or have not been collected, sometimes leading to donors leaving items outside the bins and creating a safety hazard on sidewalks, parking lots, and other spaces."

The following is the current ordinance and the changes requested by Mayor Mitchell:

10.25.2018_AN_ORDINANCE_-
_CH_12_UNATTENDED_CLOTHING_DONATION_CONTAINERS

10.22.2018_AN_ORDINANCE_- _CH_40U_VIOLATIONS_-
_CLOTHING_DONATION_CONTAINERS

10.25.2018_AN_ORDINANCE_- _CH_17__NON_CRIMINAL_VIOLATIONS_-
_CLOTHING_DONATION_CONTAINERS

New Bedford Nurses, Healthcare Leaders, and Local Officials Join Coalition Against Question 1

During a press conference this morning at St. Luke's Hospital, local nurses, healthcare providers, elected officials, and community leaders from New Bedford came together to discuss their united opposition to Question 1, citing the widespread impacts government-mandated staffing ratios would have on the region and their patients' ability to access quality services across the spectrum of healthcare.

"In a hospital setting, you are always adapting to changes in the number of patients and the severity of their illnesses or injuries. Rigid staffing mandates would take away the flexibility we need to provide all our patients the best and most timely care," said Lee Pacheco, a registered nurse at St. Luke's Hospital.

Question 1 would require all Massachusetts hospitals – including community and small rural hospitals – to adhere to rigid nurse staffing ratios within all areas of patient care. This one-size fits all government mandate would override experienced nurses and doctors at the bedside, taking away their ability to make staffing decisions.

The Health Policy Commission, an independent state agency charged with monitoring healthcare spending growth, estimates that Question 1 will cost the Massachusetts healthcare system up to \$949 million each year.

If passed, community hospitals across the state, like St. Luke's Hospital in New Bedford, may need to reassess what

services they are able to provide and may be forced to cut vital health programs. Others may be forced to close their doors completely. Southcoast Health, which includes St. Luke's Hospital along with Charlton Memorial Hospital in Fall River and Tobey Hospital in Wareham, estimates that Question 1 will increase their cost to provide care at their facilities by \$38 million a year.

"This rigid government mandate will drive up costs for our healthcare providers and the local patients they serve, seriously impacting Southcoast's ability to provide critical healthcare services throughout the region," said Southcoast Health President and CEO Keith Hovan. "It would not only hurt Southcoast Health, but all the thousands of patients, families, and communities that rely on us to deliver high quality, comprehensive care."

Elected leaders in opposition to Question 1 include State Representative Chris Markey (D-New Bedford) and New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell. Last month, Mayor Mitchell joined a bipartisan coalition of mayors against the ballot question because of the impacts it will have on their cities, the delivery of quality healthcare to their region, and their work on behalf of their residents, including those most in need of services.

In a letter to municipal leaders across the state, the mayors – all of whom have a community hospital in their city – urged their counterparts to consider the real, widespread impacts Question 1 will have on local healthcare providers and the communities and patients they serve.

"This proposal would take vital decision-making abilities away from nurses at the bedside, where experience and education save lives, and put them in the hands of an unworkable and unfunded government mandate," the letter states. "Who should be making decisions regarding their patients' care? Our highly trained and well-educated nurses should, not a blanket policy.

The result would be very real, negative consequences for our nurses, our world-class hospitals, and most importantly, our patients and their families.”

Patients seeking in-home care or those seeking vital treatment outside of their local hospitals would not be spared by the impacts of Question 1. For example, the Massachusetts Association of Behavioral Health Systems reports mandated nurse staffing ratios would lead to a devastating loss of 1,000 inpatient behavioral health beds, increase emergency room boarding for mental health patients, and decrease access to recovery services. Other services that could be impacted include specialized in-home treatment, infusion therapy, and hospice and palliative care services.

Many local community-based healthcare providers, including the Greater New Bedford Community Health Center, which serves 25,000 low-income residents annually, have come out against Question 1 because of the impacts it will have on their ability to treat patients and provide necessary services to those most in need of care in their area.

“This mandate will have a ripple effect throughout the entire healthcare system, extending to our community-based healthcare providers who deliver critical care to our most vulnerable patients, including those struggling with addiction, low-income mothers and children, and the elderly,” said Greater New Bedford Community Health Center President and CEO Cheryl Bartlett, who is also a registered nurse and the former Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. “Question 1 will make it harder for these local centers to retain the skilled nursing staff they need to serve their patients. If passed, this will be a step backwards in our work to provide vital services to those most in need, including addiction treatment, behavioral and mental health services, and pre- and post-natal care.”

Patients throughout Massachusetts will be forced to shoulder

the burden of this costly mandate through higher insurance premiums, copays, deductibles, and taxes. A number of local business groups, including the SouthCoast Chamber of Commerce, have announced their opposition to Question 1 because of the devastating impacts it will have on the local economy, regional workforce, and quality of life for residents.

“If passed, we’re going see the negative impacts of this government mandate reverberate throughout the region in terms of our local economic vitality, the strength of our workforce, and the well-being of our residents,” said SouthCoast Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Rick Kidder. “This mandate will drive up costs for local families and small businesses while threatening the critical work our local hospitals do to drive our regional economy and strengthen the quality of life of residents and families throughout the South Coast.”

The ballot question is opposed by the American Nurses Association- Massachusetts, Emergency Nurses Association- Massachusetts, Massachusetts College of Emergency Physicians, Massachusetts Medical Society, Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses-Massachusetts, and over one hundred other healthcare and business leaders across the state.

Massachusetts Man Pleads Guilty to Sending Suspicious White Powder to Trump Family

A Beverly man pleaded guilty today in connection with mailing threatening letters containing suspicious white powder to high-profile individuals, law enforcement officials and others.

Daniel Frisiello, 25, pleaded guilty to 13 counts of mailing a threat to injure the person of another and six counts of false information and hoaxes. U.S. District Court Judge Nathaniel M. Gorton scheduled sentencing for Jan. 16, 2019. Frisiello was arrested and charged on March 1, 2018, and has been in home detention since.

Frisiello mailed five high-profile individuals around the country an envelope that contained suspicious white powder and a note indicating that the powder was dangerous and intended to cause harm. There were notable commonalities among the envelopes, including a Boston postmark. Further investigation revealed that one victim had also received a "glitter bomb," that is, an envelope containing glitter sent to an unsuspecting individual that, when opened, spills out onto the recipient. Law enforcement traced financial records to Frisiello, who had ordered and paid for the glitter bomb to be delivered to the victim. Furthermore, trash recovered from Frisiello's residence contained remnants of the cut-out computer-printed messages that Frisiello sent to some victims.

More specifically, in 2015, Frisiello sent two letters that threatened the manager of a Massachusetts company that had recently terminated one of Frisiello's family members. During the 2016 presidential campaign, Frisiello sent a white-powder letter to family members of then-presidential candidate Donald Trump, which caused a significant hazardous material response by law enforcement. The letter promised that if Trump did not drop out of the race, the next letter would not be a fake. In 2016, Frisiello also sent letters to the heads of four law enforcement agencies in Connecticut and Rhode Island, warning them to drop an investigation into Nathan Carman, who allegedly killed his mother and grandfather, threatening that one police chief would join Carman's mother "at the bottom of the sea" and that a state police colonel would not only drown, but also receive "a bullet in [his] brain." In 2017, Frisiello sent a letter threatening to shoot the assistant district

attorney who was prosecuting Michelle Carter for involuntary manslaughter and to also shoot the judge who was hearing the case. In 2018, Frisiello sent white powder letters to another member of the First Family, a United States Attorney, United States Senator Deborah Stabenow, a Stanford law professor, and a candidate for the United States House of Representatives.

Frisiello was tied to the threatening letters through fingerprints and further investigation.

The charge of mailing a threat to injure the person of another provides for a sentence of no greater than five years in prison, or 10 years in prison for threats addressed to a federal official, three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. The charge of false information and hoaxes provides for a sentence of no greater than five years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling; Harold H. Shaw, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Field Division; Joseph W. Cronin, Inspector in Charge of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Boston Division; Stephen Marks, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Secret Service Boston Field Office; and Beverly Police Chief John G. LeLacheur made the announcement today. The investigation was led by the FBI Boston Division's Joint Terrorism Task Force. Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott L. Garland, Deputy Chief of Lelling's National Security Unit, is prosecuting the case.

PODCAST: Latest ABC Disposal and City of New Bedford update

New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell provides the latest on the ABC Disposal and City of New Bedford situation.

Councilor Gomes requesting State release Carlos Rafael fishing licenses to New Bedford

The following motion will be presented to the New Bedford City Council Thursday, October 11, 2018:

WRITTEN MOTION, Councilor Gomes, requesting, once more that letters be sent to Congressman William Keating, Senators Elizabeth Warren and Edward Markey, for their immediate action in releasing the fishing licenses to New Bedford that were once held by Carlos Rafael of Carlos Seafood, this request is on behalf of the ground fishing industry and the fishermen that have been put out of work due to the federal investigation showing Carlos Rafael's scheme, due to the implementation of the Federal Government rules on ground fishing, that targeted boat owners in obtaining boats and ground fish licenses and his mission plan to dominate the fishing industry in the City, said licenses being held by NOAA

and the Federal government should be released and re-issued to new owners in the New Bedford fishing industry which is a livelihood and economic boom to our City and working waterfront.

New Bedford issues guidance regarding establishment of recreational marijuana facilities

A local moratorium prohibiting the establishment of recreational marijuana facilities in New Bedford recently expired. This week the City of New Bedford is providing initial information to the public and potential applicants interested in establishing facilities.

General Guidance for the Establishment of Recreational Marijuana Facilities
In The City of New Bedford
October 9, 2018

The City of New Bedford is committed to a fair, transparent, and inclusive process for recreational marijuana establishments to open and operate in the community as allowed under Massachusetts General Law. Equally important, recreational marijuana establishments that are allowed to open and operate in New Bedford must do so in a manner that is consistent with the City's interests.

The major elements of the City's approach are outlined below. More detailed information will be contained in application

documents and supporting materials to be made available later this month.

Timetable

A local moratorium prohibiting the establishment of recreational marijuana facilities in New Bedford recently expired. This week the City is providing initial information to the public and potential applicants interested in establishing facilities. The information addresses the two separate local processes provided under Massachusetts General Law and the City Code of Ordinances:

- the Host Community Agreement (HCA) Process
- the Special Permit (SP) Process.

Pre-Eligibility Screening

Applicants for dispensary and/or cultivation facilities that seek to begin the HCA Process will be required to first complete a Screening Form. The Screening Form requests basic information about the monetary commitments, mitigation efforts, and benefits the applicant will bring to the community if the City agrees to enter into a Host Community Agreement. The commitments will cover a range of categories and uses of funds, including: hiring of city residents, use of city businesses as vendors, support for New Bedford-based charitable organizations and reimbursement for municipal services. Applicants will also use the Screening Form to indicate their willingness to agree to various terms and conditions that are important to the City.

Supporting Materials Required As Part of Pre Eligibility Screening

In conjunction with the submission of the Screening Form, applicants are required to attach the first (without an HCA Form) and third (of three) packets required under the application process of the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission. See directly below

“Demonstration of Site Eligibility and Site Control.”

Demonstration of Site Eligibility and Site Control

The City’s requirement that applicants attach the first and third (of three) packets required by the Cannabis Control Commission effectively necessitates that HCA applicants have established a permissible location for their facility and secured an appropriate level of site control.

Applicants seeking guidance on the conformance of a particular parcel with the City’s zoning ordinances, including restrictions specific to the operation of recreational marijuana facilities, are directed to contact the Department of Inspectional Services. A written determination of conformance will be provided to applicants based on the specific parcel proposed by the applicant.

Once an applicant has (1) obtain a letter from the Commissioner of Inspectional Services affirming conformance with zoning requirements, (2) has established site control consistent with Cannabis Control mission requirements, and (3) successfully assembled all materials that the Cannabis Control Commission requires to be included in the first (all but an HCA Form) and third application packets, the applicant is ready to submit a completed Screening Form (and supporting documents) to the Planning Office.

Screening Committee Review and Designations of “Preferred Negotiating Partner”

A Screening Committee will be established to evaluate the monetary commitments, mitigation efforts, and various benefits proposed in Screening Forms, as well as review the attached materials. Based on these and other relevant factors, the Committee will make recommendations to the Mayor regarding any “Preferred Negotiating Partner/s” (an applicant or applicants

with which the City should commence HCA negotiations). The Mayor will then decide on which Committee recommendations to act.

The Screening Committee will meet twice annually. At each meeting, the Committee will consider applicants that have submitted all required materials during the previous six months, as well as previous applicants that wish to revise their submissions. The Screening Committee may also decide in some instances to refrain from making recommendations to the Mayor if there are an insufficient number of competing applicants to review at a given time.

Members of the Screening Committee will include: The City Planner, Police Chief, City Solicitor, Chief Financial Officer, Health Director, Commissioner of Inspectional Services, and Director of Economic Development, or their designees. In addition, a member of the New Bedford City Council (as selected by the President of the Council) is also invited to serve as a member of the Screening Committee.

Host Community Agreement Negotiations and Public Input

The City reserves the right to reject any and all applications for a Host Community Agreement if deemed to be in the City's best interest. The City reserves the right to engage or disengage in negotiations with Preferred Negotiating Partners as its discretion and without any designated time period for the completion of negotiations. The City also reserves the right to solicit neighborhood input through public meetings (or other community outreach methods) at any time before and/or during negotiations.

Upon an Agreement being reached, the Mayor will submit the Host Community Agreement to the City Council for consideration. If approved by the City Council and signed by the Mayor, the applicant may move forward with its effort to

obtain a Provisional License from the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission as well as move forward with its effort to obtain a Special Permit as established under the City Code.

Special Permit Process

Upon an applicant obtaining a Provisional License from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, that applicant may then apply for a Special Permit. To assist the applicant in the SP Process, the City will hold a Pre-Permitting Meeting with the applicant. The applicant must obtain necessary approvals from the Police Department, Fire Department, and Board of Health. The applicant must also conduct Abutter notifications, and fulfill all applicable Special Permit application requirements. The Planning Board will then conduct a public hearing and issue a decision.

Local Board Oversight

Separate from the state's licensing and oversight regime, the City intends to make use of existing municipal oversight boards to monitor and hold accountable recreational marijuana facilities once they have begun operating in the City.

The City intends to establish a local licensing authority, with similar scope and authority to the current City Licensing Board. Applicants that enter into a Host Community Agreement and obtain a Special Permit will also be required to obtain and maintain a local license issued by the new local licensing authority. The local licensing authority will have the power to exercise sanctions (including the temporary or permanent revocation of a local license) in similar fashion to sanctions presently used by the City's Licensing Board to enforce the compliance of liquor establishments with local and state regulations.

Rather than establish a separate licensing authority, it may prove to be more practical and cost-effective to assign

responsibility for the local licensing of marijuana facilities to the City's Licensing Board. A final determination regarding this approach has not been made at this time.

In addition, over the next several months the New Bedford Board of Health will develop and adopt health-related regulations governing recreational marijuana facility operations. The Board of Health will take steps to ensure that the public has the opportunity to comment on any proposed regulations, and it will consider community feedback in its decisions regarding its regulations.

Further Information

Questions may be directed to the Office of Planning, Room 303, 133 William Street, New Bedford; 508-979-1488.

Domestic Violence Proclamation Tree Lighting in New Bedford

On Oct 2, the City of New Bedford held a Proclamation Tree Lighting in support of domestic violence victims. A short program preceded the lighting of a tree in front of New Bedford City Hall. The tree will be lit each night through the end of the month in support of victims of domestic violence and their families.