

# **New Bedford's Mayor Mitchell proposes capital projects with focus on roads, Zeiterion, campus**

"Mayor Jon Mitchell has requested City Council approval of a \$7,850,000 loan authorization which would fund capital projects consistent with the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP), a rolling five-year plan that sets priorities for capital repairs and improvements across the City.

"The City's use of a five-year CIP has been a key component in our efforts to demonstrate responsible fiscal management to rating agencies and investors and has been cited as a factor in the City achieving and maintaining a stable AA- bond rating since 2014," said Mayor Jon Mitchell.

Each year, the Administration proposes to the City Council a new set of projects for incorporation into the CIP. This year's CIP funding request [itemized below] emphasizes repairs to local roads and key facilities, and takes into account rising construction costs due to inflation:

## **Roads & Infrastructure (\$3,000,000)**

The Capital Improvement Program includes an ongoing infrastructure program intended to augment State-funded and utility-related improvements to roads and sidewalks. Work is assigned based on conditions as assessed through the City's pavement management program. This program was initiated in FY 2017 and is proposed to continue throughout the five-year planning period.

## **City Yard Campus (\$2,300,000)**

This allocation provides additional funding for the previously approved City Yard Campus capital project. Being that this project was initially planned and priced several years ago, the costs and needs have increased while the project has not progressed on the original timeline.

### **Zeiterion Theater Renovation (\$750,000)**

This funding will contribute to upgrades needed to comply with updated state building codes.

### **Zoo Renovations (\$690,000)**

This funding supports two capital projects consisting of repairs to the Zoo's maintenance shop including exterior wall repairs, interior wall removal, new insulation, and interior wall, electrical, lighting, improved utilities, and a two-car garage/shed (\$440,000), as well as funding for ongoing zoo deferred maintenance projects (\$250,000) including HVAC, roof repairs, window replacements, generators, restroom upgrades, etc.

### **City Hall Deferred Maintenance (\$350,000)**

This allocation provides additional funding for the previously approved City Hall bathroom renovations and upgrade which is required to maintain the full operation of City Hall.

### **City Hall Elevator (\$250,000)**

This allocation provides additional funding for this previously approved project which is required to make improvements to the existing historic elevator in City Hall to ensure continued access for all beyond the first floor. As the existing elevator was constructed in 1906, and is well beyond its service life, it requires frequent, costly repairs. The plans for this project will help reduce the need for those costly and difficult repairs for many years.

### **Hillman Street Complex Renovations (\$215,000)**

This project is a continuation of the plan that began in FY2014 to work on the Hillman Street Complex in segments each year. The activities included in this year would include more annex office space renovations, including interior and exterior work, and an additional ADA ramp for building access.

#### **South Public Safety Center Annex (\$170,000)**

This funding would support the previously approved project, including HVAC improvements and cooling upgrades to the first floor, window replacements, roof, and shingle replacements, and improved building drainage.

#### **Mobile Command Center (\$125,000)**

This project would provide for the updating of existing technology, radio, and video equipment including computers and workstations in the City's Mobile Command Center which was recently donated by the County.

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### **BACKGROUND ON THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

The Mitchell Administration established the Capital Improvement Program in 2014 to manage the City's long-term capital needs. Prior to the creation of the CIP, the City lacked a permanent framework for prioritizing repairs and improvements across the City. The CIP has since proven invaluable in guiding bond-funded investments in municipal buildings, roads, the City's vehicle fleet, and other infrastructure.

The CIP also helps ensure that debt service costs are held to a reasonable level in the City's Operating Budget. Each year the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) updates the CIP. Available funding sources are considered, and input is solicited from department heads across city government. The

CF0 staff then works with the City's Treasurer/Collector to model and manage the associated debt.

The current CIP covers projects from Fiscal Years 2023 through 2027, totaling \$166.3 million. Of this amount, \$28.9 million is allocated for capital asset preservation projects for public safety, road repairs, public use buildings, and other government facilities; \$10.1 million is allocated for the ongoing replacement of capital vehicles and general fleet replenishment; \$37.4 million is allocated for major renovations and/or replacements at general government facilities; and \$90 million is allocated for school projects."

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## **Effort Underway To Restore Cash, Food Aid To Legal Immigrants in Massachusetts**

By Chris Lisinski  
State House News Service

More than two decades after Massachusetts cut off legal immigrants from popular safety net programs, a coalition of community groups and health care providers thinks the time is right to revive their access to the benefits.

The Feeding Our Neighbors Coalition launched a campaign urging lawmakers to make funding available in the fiscal 2024 state budget and to adopt standalone legislation (H 135 / S 76) that would once again make thousands of immigrants with legal status eligible for food aid through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and cash benefits through the Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children

(TAFDC) program.

It would not be a brand-new expansion, but instead a return to how Massachusetts once ran the programs, supporters said.

In 1997, a year after Congress barred legally present immigrants from accessing food and cash assistance benefits as part of a welfare reform law, the Legislature intervened and made SNAP and TAFDC available to those people in Massachusetts using state funding. That eligibility ended in 2002.

Massachusetts Law Reform Institute Senior Benefits Policy Advocate Pat Baker said thousands of immigrants in Massachusetts need additional support to get by, particularly amid an influx of new arrivals that has strained the state's emergency shelter system, but remain unable to access benefits available to other Bay Staters.

"Now we are seeing more newcomers coming in who have legal status and cannot get basic food, cannot get basic cash assistance – victims of violence, DREAMers, individuals who are pending political asylum, granted humanitarian parole at the border," Baker said at a briefing on Tuesday. "Congress has extended some exceptions to immigrants from certain countries such as Haiti, Ukraine, Afghanistan and Iraq, but many of our newcomers with legal status cannot access benefits."

Rep. Antonio Cabral, a New Bedford Democrat first elected in 1990, played a role in the Legislature's 1997 action to make benefits available and is now pushing for similar action more than two decades later.

As Cabral told advocates Tuesday, then-Speaker Tom Finneran initially opposed using state dollars to make the aid programs available to immigrants with legal status, but became convinced and wound up debating in its favor on the House floor.

“That’s why the conversation is important. The conversation is about educating the folks we need to educate,” Cabral said. “It’s a fight worth fighting. It’s about helping people that need help, and we are a state that usually steps up to the plate to provide services for all those who reside here, live here, work here.”

Coalition members estimate that restoring nutrition aid and cash assistance benefits for legally present immigrants who qualify based on their income would cost the state about \$18 million in fiscal year 2024.

That money could provide an average of \$180 per month in SNAP benefits to between 8,000 and 12,000 immigrants, plus an average of \$300 per month in TAFDC cash benefits to about 1,000 to 1,500 immigrant families, supporters said.

“Today, with the price of food skyrocketing and the cost-of-living challenging family budgets, the emergency food network, including food pantries, such as La Colaborativa’s, are running out of food,” La Colaborativa Executive Director Gladys Vega wrote in a letter to legislative leaders as part of the campaign. “Nor can we meet all the food needs of our constituents.”

In addition to MLRI and La Colaborativa, other members of the coalition pressing for eligibility reform include Mass General Brigham, Boston Children’s Hospital, SEIU Local 509, the Greater Boston Food Bank and Roxbury Community College.

Cabral told advocates on Tuesday that he’s hopeful about the effort’s outlook in the House, recalling that Speaker Ron Mariano had been an ally of the original effort when he was a lower-ranking representative.

“We had a group letter we did back then, and he signed that group letter as well, so I’m sure he is receptive to the conversation,” Cabral said at the briefing. “We’re going to start that conversation with him as well. It’s important for

his support. We're going to say, 'Here's a copy of the letter. You probably don't have it in your archives.'"

Mariano led last session's efforts to pass and uphold a new law opening up driver's license eligibility to people regardless of their immigration status, and signaled interest this year in doing more "to make the Commonwealth a more welcoming place for immigrants from all over the world."

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## **New Bedford's Mayor issues statement on Massachusetts Gov. Healey's offshore wind proposal**

New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell issued the following statement in response to the Healey-Driscoll Administration's filing today of a draft RFP for Massachusetts' fourth offshore wind procurement:

"The Healy-Driscoll Administration has demonstrated real leadership with its decision to create a strong, predictable incentive for wind developers to include robust economic development commitments in their proposals for future offshore wind energy projects.

We in New Bedford have long expressed concern that Massachusetts was not keeping up with its competitor states in incentivizing wind industry investment. Today's announcement represents an important course correction in state policy and puts New Bedford in a stronger position to establish itself as a national leader of this emerging industry."

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# **OPINION: “There is a reason Thomas Hodgson is no longer the Bristol County sheriff”**

*The following is an opinion sent to New Bedford Guide. It does not reflect the opinion of New Bedford Guide, nor is it an OP-ED. In fairness and objectivity, we share opinions from our readers whether we agree or disagree with their opinion.*

Do you have a counter opinion to this opinion? Have an opinion about something else? Email us at [info@newbedfordguide.com](mailto:info@newbedfordguide.com).

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“Despite an overwhelming affirmation by almost every print and internet newspaper having praised newly elected Sheriff Paul Heroux for the response to the recent uprising at the Bristol County House of Correction, former sheriff Thomas Hodgson had to weigh in with criticism and disinformation about how he handled uprisings during his tenure in office.

The praise by the media for Heroux was twofold: first and most significantly no staff or inmate suffered injuries, and second the cause of the disturbance was Heroux’s commencement of fulfilling his campaign promise to remodel the cells to reduce suicides and increase the safety of the inmates and staff.

Hodgson conducted himself with cordiality and professionalism as he exited his twenty-five-year reign, but he has now countered that last image with unwarranted and hypocritical criticism of the new sheriff.

Too many easily accessible archival, court documentation, and newspaper articles exist, that belie any boasts Hodgson makes



about how he managed riots or disturbances. And in no small measure, it was undoubtedly the melee at the immigrant detention center during the worst days of the Covid pandemic that brought Hodgson so much negative attention and the ultimate cancellation of the federal government's contracts regarding immigrant detainees; probably the beginning of the end of his unchallenged reign as sheriff.

Hodgson continually bragged about programs, staff training, nutritional food, clean facilities, and various positive accreditations that were disproved by careful research and analysis so his claim that he would have handled this uprising in a better manner is disingenuous.

If Hodgson had, in reality, reduced the suicide and recidivism rate, treated his staff and the incarcerated with productive programs and protocols, and had consideration for the taxpayers he could have remained in his job for another term.

Second-guessing his successor is not unexpected from Hodgson based on his history of insulting any judge, attorney general, police chief, local or federal official who had the temerity to call out his mismanagement, and alleged constitutional violations.

Perhaps it was too optimistic to hope that Hodgson would have understood that the voters rejected his tough on crime no matter the consequences methods and wanted a sheriff who has a better grasp of effective incarceration procedures, and protocols."-Betty Ussach, Dartmouth.

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# **New Bedford Councilor Lima in favor of Mayor's Veto regarding 4-year Mayoral term, recall proposal**

"During New Bedford's municipal election in 2017, via a ballot question – "Should the Mayor's term be extended from 2 years to 4 years?" – citizens voted in favor of the ballot question. The tally was 6,904 yes votes and 6,127 no votes.

While good arguments were made in favor of extending the Mayoral term and the ballot question passed, the vote was relatively close indicating some level of disapproval.

Thus, it's important to consider why 6,127 citizens voted no on the ballot questions and to consider measures designed to protect the City and its residents from a 4-year Mayoral term that could potentially include instances of impropriety, malfeasance, dereliction of duty, and illegal activities.

One such measure that could protect the City and its citizens from said instances is a Mayoral recall provision which if enacted, would rest power in the City's voters to remove a sitting Mayor from office.

Therefore, because Mayor Mitchell has agreed to work with the City Council to establish a Mayoral recall provision, it is my intention to sustain the Mayor's Veto of the Written Motion which seeks to place on the ballot an advisory opinion question asking the citizens of New Bedford, "Shall the term of Office of Mayor of the City of New Bedford be reduced from the current four years to two years?"-Councilor Scott Lima.

**Mayor Jon Mitchell's remarks on Councilor Scott Lima's Announcement:**

**Statement of Mayor Jon Mitchell on Councilor Lima Announcement  
Regarding 4-year Mayoral Term and Recall Proposal**

Democracy rests on the willingness of the public to accept the results of a properly administered election. Our system of government cannot reliably function if the results are allowed to be undone by those who merely disagree with the victor's policies. But I believe that under certain extraordinary circumstances, voters should have the authority to recall an elected official who has become so physically or mentally incapacitated as to be unable to perform the basic duties of office, or whose moral or legal transgressions are so serious that continued service would undermine the legitimacy of the office itself. To avoid these worst-case scenarios, many, if not most, American cities have a recall provision in their city charter, and as I've said before, now that New Bedford has a four-year mayoral term, we should have one, too. I look forward to working with Councilor Scott Lima and the rest of the Council to craft a recall provision that balances the need to honor the finality of elections with the need to preserve the legitimacy of municipal government. – *Mayor Jon Mitchell*

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## **OPINION: “Sheriff Heroux did a superb job in his response to Dartmouth HoC uprising”**

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“The most important takeaway from the Bristol County House of Correction uprising.

It has been reported that there were no injuries to the agitators and none to the staff or responding officers. No dogs growling and intimidating the participants, nor the incarcerated men who were not involved.

Sheriff Paul Heroux, who is an advocate of de-escalation techniques, set the tone and prevented an outcome that may have taken lives and caused serious injury. Not trying to sugarcoat the situation and minimizing the damage caused by the ringleaders the sheriff transparently announced the estimated cost of the destruction of property. Heroux also immediately explained that the removal of the men from two units, with the intention to improve the quality and safety of the cells, was the primary cause of this uprising.

There is no excuse for the destructive and threatening response of the men who instigated or actively participated in this uprising and who are now re-assigned to other facilities in Massachusetts. The sheriff indicated that there will be an investigation and possible criminal charges brought against those involved. And the irony of the situation is not lost on Sheriff Heroux. The reason for the removal was to remodel the cells to install individual toilets and newly crafted beds to reduce suicides.

Paul Heroux repeatedly indicated, that if elected, he would concentrate his attention on suicide reduction, the safety and rehabilitation of the incarcerated, respect for his staff, and the implementation of procedures for the de-escalation of situations as just occurred.

Those are some of the mandated responsibilities of Massachusetts sheriffs and Paul Heroux intends to abide by his commitments and to keep the public informed every step of the way."-Betty Ussach Schwartz.

**All photos by the Bristol County Sheriff's Office:**



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# UMass Board Votes To Raise Tuition

By Sam Drysdale  
State House News Service

The University of Massachusetts has agreed to increase tuition, room and board next academic year, as leaders on Beacon Hill disagree over creating a “tuition lock” system and how much to invest in public higher education.

The UMass Board of Trustees voted during their quarterly meeting on Wednesday to increase tuition for in-state undergraduates by 2.5 percent, and increase room and board on the Amherst campus by 4.5 percent and on the Dartmouth and Lowell campuses by 2.7 percent.

Tuition for graduate students is also going up – 2.5 percent

for in-state graduate students at the Amherst, Boston and Lowell campuses, 3.5 percent for medical students at the T.H. Chan School of Medicine, Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing and Morningside Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, and 2 percent at UMass Law.

MassGrant, the state's primary tool for providing need-based financial aid to students, has shrunk in its impact over the past few decades in the face of tuition increases and higher student demand. In 1998, the aid covered about 80 percent of tuition and fees at public universities. Today, it covers only 8 percent of tuition and fees for UMass students and 11 percent for state university students, according to a report from The Hildreth Institute.

The state contributed 9 percent of the aid available to students in fiscal year 2023, and federal free aid represented 15 percent of the available aid. Together, government aid contributed \$137 million to UMass students' tuition this academic year.

From 2001 to 2021, the inflation-adjusted national average for state-provided financial aid per full-time equivalent student increased 15 percent, Hildreth Institute researchers found. Over the same span, the inflation-adjusted amount of state aid per FTE Massachusetts student dropped 47 percent, the report says.

As government aid has struggled to keep pace with demand and tuition increases, university-generated financial aid has grown to represent 69 percent of free aid available for students – \$395 million in fiscal year 2023. Of the university-generated aid, 81 percent goes to in-state students.

The tuition increases at the state's public universities come against a backdrop of disagreement on investments into higher education on Beacon Hill.

Gov. Maura Healey recommended a \$93 million expansion of the MassGrant Plus scholarship program, for low-income, in-state undergraduates. This increase, the largest proposed in the program's history, would expand the scholarship to part-time students and cover additional direct costs of attendance such as fees, books and supplies. The Healey administration estimates the \$93 million would provide 33,000 students with assistance.

The House Ways and Means Committee released its version of the state budget on Wednesday, where they earmarked \$84 million for MassGrant Plus. Using newly-available dollars from a surtax on the state's highest earners on expanding this scholarship program is one of the only areas where the two budgets align on higher education investments.

Healey recommended a total \$360 million of the \$1 billion that the state expects to bring in through the surtax be spent on higher education initiatives – and unique to her budget, which was drafted by former UMass finance official Matt Gorzkowicz, is a “tuition lock” proposal.

Under the governor's plan, students attending UMass or state universities would lock in four years of the same tuition during their first year, though it could be increased for each incoming class of students. Healey proposes \$59 million to offset costs for the initiative. She also recommended \$140 million for one-time investments in capital improvement to public colleges and universities' campuses.

House leaders' version of the budget did not include capital improvements or the tuition lock proposal, though they proposed increasing the High Demand Scholarship Program from \$2 million to \$50 million. This scholarship is given to students pursuing “in-demand” jobs in Massachusetts, who commit to staying in the state five years after graduation. Healey's budget did not include any money for this initiative.

The budget moves next to the House floor for debate, then over to the Senate, where senators will take their own approach to a higher education agenda.

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## **Massachusetts now discriminates against white males who want to start a non-profit**

In Massachusetts, you can start a non-profit with a board that is 100% women and/or designated minority members, but the board can't be more than 49% white male.

For nearly a decade, my brother and I have helped thousands of cats and dogs return home. With the help of our followers, I used the New Bedford Guide and **New Bedford Pet Detective** Facebook pages to reunite missing pets with their owners. I feel we've done a lot of good for the community and decided to look into starting a non-profit to raise funds to boost the posts on Facebook and potentially add a paid person to assist. We've never taken a penny and have dedicated countless of hours to the cause.

After two minutes of research and to my surprise, white males can't be the majority of a new non-profit in Massachusetts. To start a non-profit, we'd have to give up complete control of the cause to other people because we are white men.

On the official **Commonwealth of Massachusetts Non-Profit** page, it states the following requirements:



# What you need

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## Is your organization eligible?

To be eligible for certification, your organization must meet the following requirements:-

- Your organization must be a tax-exempt non-profit.
- At least 51% of the organization's Board of Directors and Voting Membership must be women and/or members of one of our statutorily defined minority groups.
- The same Board of Directors and Voting Membership must control the NPO's daily and long-term operations.
- Your NPO must be regularly and actively engaged in business activity.
- Your NPO cannot be dependent upon or influenced by another non-eligible person or organization.

## **Massachusetts defines a qualifying minority group as:**

- American Indian or Native American
- Asian
- Black
- Eskimo
- Hispanic

This means women of any ethnicity can be 100% of a non-profit board in Massachusetts, but if you are a man, you must be Native American Indian, Asian, black, Eskimo, or Hispanic to be the majority of a board. Again, to be clear, if you are a white male that wants to start a non-profit in Massachusetts, you'll need to recruit women or qualified minorities to control it.

One has to ask, what if Massachusetts decided men of any ethnicity could control a non-profit board, but black women

could not make up 50% or more of a board and would need to recruit white men to start it? You'd correctly be outraged. But this is Massachusetts, where you can discriminate based on race and sex, as long as it's white males who are the target.

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## **Erik Andrade: Disappointed in New Bedford's Poet Laureate selection process**

As they say "more is always revealed" upon posting my disappointment at the lack of communication regarding the application for the Poet Laureate position in the city of New Bedford. A former poet laureate took it upon themselves to reply to my post with the following:

"The New Bedford LCC placed notices in all the proper places, such as the newspaper, social media, and City Hall. All poets were required to fill out an application and submit samples of their work, and recent publishing credits. The final decisions rested on the shoulders of board members of the Cultural Council, as well as myself as the outgoing Poet Laureate. The three finalists were then interviewed, asked to give a brief reading of their best work, and were then subjected to a Q and A session in order for the LCC members to reach a final decision. It is the responsibility of local poets to stay updated on the procedure, as well as to be involved with the local poetry community as a whole. Personally, I had hoped you'd apply and was disappointed that you did not.", "Best advice I can give any of you young people is "plan your work and work your plan." and " In all honesty, I thought I mentioned it to you directly after you and I left the lawyer's

office with Jibreel. In the chaos of 2020 – 2020”.

Contrary to their original claim the New Bedford LCC did not place notices in all the proper places the former poet laureate listed in their post. In fact, none of the media (Standard-Times, New Bedford Guide, New Bedford Light – A community-news organization, The Scallop, 1420 WBSM, The Public’s Radio 89.3FM) published any public notice of an application for this public position. I also was never told about the application by the former poet laureate as they stated that they “thought they had informed me when they saw me and Dr. Khazan at South Coast Legal Services.”

Despite the fact that in their post they claimed “they had personally hoped I would apply and were disappointed that I did not”, they did not inform me when they saw me on Grinnell Street either any of the dozen of times they claim to have seen me, even though I literally lived on the same street a block away from the home they moved into. Nor did they email me, Facebook message me, or phone me.

Given those facts, I find it troubling that they choose to reply and imply that the failure was mine for not applying to an application like “all” the other poets, ignoring the fact that I, and many other well-known poets in our community, were left in the dark about the application. And also falsely implying that they had “hoped I’d apply and were disappointed I did not” despite never informing me.

Not that I feel they were required to seek me out and inform me, unless public outreach was part of their role as the former poet laureate and as a member of the search committee’s review board. I do find it troubling that they posted a comment discrediting my disappointment and attempting to place the blame on me for not keeping up with the procedure.

It is troubling that many poets, including the city’s most well-acclaimed Langston Hughes Society and Gwendolyn Brooks

Award-winning poet, Professor Emeritus Everett Hoagland, who was also the first poet laureate of New Bedford and for whom Maya Angelou wrote an introduction for his first book, were left in the dark regarding the application.

In fact, it appears that it is not the first time we as a community were left in the dark regarding the process. If the terms of the Poet Laureate are every three years as they mentioned in their post, we were also left in the dark regarding the 2017 application. The last application that had a public notice was in 2014. That is troubling for a public position to not have a public and transparent notice. It is also troubling to place the onus on those left in the dark to submit an application that has not been made public.

The application process was flawed and unfair. Moreover, from their description of the selection process, it appears the selection process was also flawed and biased. As from their own description of the process, they would have been voting for themselves during the 2017 selection as their first term as poet laureate from 2014-2017 would have ended. So they would have needed to reapply and go through the procedure they described.

Also, from their description of the process and brief research, it appears that in the most recent selection process, they voted for their mentee poet who considers them "her fairy godmother" and is someone whom the former poet laureate directly encouraged to apply to become the next poet laureate after them. It appears someone who was informed by them "planned their work and worked the previous poet laureate's plan."

And in response to the claim that the lack of communication was because poetry took a hiatus or the claim from another that I have been noticeably absent from the scene, in 2020-2021 the fact is poetry for me and many others was far from on a hiatus. Many, my self included, were very active

living up to the “artist’s duty to reflect the times” as Nina Simone had advised.

So despite COVID and extensive community organizing with BREATHE New Bedford, Justice For Malcolm Gracia, New Bedford Coalition to Save Our Schools, Police Reform Now (MA), Verdean Veterans Memorial Foundation, Cape Verdean American Veterans Association, Revolutionary Healing, and La Soul Renaissance the following is a list of my contribution via poetry and public speaking in 2020.

December 11, 2020 -spoken word poetry performance for Jewish Voices for Peace -“Rekindle The People’s Menorah – Hanukkah Artists For Abolition” on the second day of Hanukkah (virtual)

November 22, 2020 – spoken word poetry performance for Revolutionary Healing – Friendsgiving Festival Atlanta featuring Sa-Roc, Erik Andrade, Kevhn Clarence, Basheer Music, and 19 Keys (in person)

November 20, 2020 – ‘Go Within” featuring poetry by Erik Andrade & Piano by Miles Flisher video released

November 17, 2020 – “Round Here” by Stuart James featuring Erik Andrade off of Stuart James from Spirit Lake, North Dakota’s album “Something Different’ released on all streaming platforms.

November 15, 2020 “Saturday (Feelings)” by AgaJon – Y’akoto – remix featuring poetry by Erik Andrade producer- Aga John Machirus Lyrics – Jennifer Yaa Akoto Kieck, Poetry by Erik Andrade released

November 8th, 2020 “As My Last” Spoken word poem by Erik Andrade featuring Dr. Jibreel Khazan “Instrumental produced by Zhane98 – video released

November 6, 2020 “Water Is Life” spoken poetry performance video by Erik Andrade instrumental produced by Zhane98 -video

released.

November 3rd, 2020 – “What Becomes” spoken poetry performance video by Erik Andrade instrumental produced by Zhane98 -video released

November 2, 2020 “It isn’t prudent” spoken word poetry performance by Erik Andrade instrumental produced by Euro – video released

October 30, 2020 – Cape Verdean Beautiful People featuring Chachi Carvalho, Erik Andrade, SupremeOverStanding, Carlene Fonseca, Susan Pires, and Daniel Shaw (virtual)

October 24, 2020 – BREATHE for Malcolm – Justice for Malcolm Gracia – spoken word poetry performance by Erik Andrade at United Front Housing prior to March. (in person)

October 12, 2020 – Justice for Elder Fernandes – spoken word performance / speech by Erik Andrade at Brockton City Hall (in person)

October 11, 2020 – spoken word poetry performance by Erik Andrade at “Indigenous People’s Day Convergence- organized by Greater Cincinnati Native American Coalition (virtual)

September 27, 2020 – spoken word poetry performance by Erik Andrade at “Rally for Real Police Reform – Black Leaders from all across the state of Massachusetts virtually rally to express growing concerns regarding police unions influence on police reform legislation (H.4886/S.2820). (virtual)

September 27, 2020 – spoken word poetry / speech by Erik Andrade at Ash Street Jail, New Bedford MA New Bedford in support of call to eliminate phone call costs for incarcerated people and their families. The bill S.2846 in Massachusetts (in person)

September 8, 2020 – spoken word poetry / speech by Erik Andrade at “Justice for Angie Barros, Elder Fernandes, Junior

DaVeiga, and Malcolm Gracia- Speak Out and March – Coppens Square Dorchester (in person)

August 19th, 2020 – spoken word and New Bedford report back by Erik Andrade – National Community Conversation -Civilian Review Board Community Oversight Board with subpoena power. (virtual)

July 25, 2020 – spoken word performance /speech by Erik Andrade at Stand Up for Justice Bridgewater Part VIII – Stand UP for Black Liberation and Indigenous Sovereignty – Central Square Bridgewater (in person)

July 2, 2020 8pm Erik Andrade and Kasim Allah performing poetry live on For > Word hosted by spoken word poet Harlym 125 and Michael Warrior Bonds. (Virtual)

June 24, 2020 Spoken word poetry Performance by Erik Andrade for People's Agroecology Process celebrating six years of building collective power in the movement for food sovereignty! With members of SAAFON, Eastern Woodlands ReMatiation, Organización Boricúa, Union Paysanne, National Farmers Union Canada, and CATA (virtual)

June 19th, 2020 – Spoken word poetry performance by Erik Andrade at La Soul Renaissance “Juneteenth Drive To Justice New Bedford” – lifting up the names, legacies and families of stolen lives from across the nation including local area stolen lives of #LesterLima, #MorrisPina, #ErikAguilar #JosephRamos, #MalcolmGracia, #LarryRuizBarreto (in person)

June 14, 2020 – speech by Erik Andrade at “Sunday's Best Peaceful Protest” march from Buttonwood Park to New Bedford City Hall (in person)

June 13, 2020 – speech by Erik Andrade at Fairhaven's Black Lives Matter March and Protest (in person)

June 9, 2020 – “I wonder” poem by Erik Andrade published

online

June 7th, 2020 – poem and speech by Erik Andrade at Justice for Malcolm Gracia Car Caravan New Bedford MA organized by BREATHE New Bedford (in person)

May 14, 2020 Jewish Voice for Peace Boston presents Poets for Palestine: Honoring the Nakba on the eve of the 72nd anniversary of the Nakba, featuring poets: Mosab Abu Toha, Sara Abou Rashedt, Erik Andrade, Ashley Rose, and Ruby Poltorak. (virtual)

May 1, 2020 – spoken word poetry performance by Erik Andrade at Virtual Celebration Of Life of José A Soler – award winning Union Activist, Immigrant Rights Leader, International Organizer, Award winning Photojournalist, and Educator. (virtual)

March 12, 2020 – Spoken performance at La Soul Renaissance – “Um Frenti Unido – Um Prujeto Di Memória Kultural” (A United Front – A Project Of Cultural Memory) Open Mic & Spoken Word Poetry performances at historic Cape Verdean Veterans Hall -561 Purchase Street New Bedford MA (in person)

Ultimately, as we move forward, I pray that those responsible for the application process in the City of New Bedford and the New Bedford Local Cultural Council will ensure that the entire New Bedford community is informed about opportunities. For at least two cycles, the position was not properly publicly posted, and as a result, our community was left in the dark. Furthermore, if there are any conflicts of interest based on close personal relationships with applicants, those on the selection committee should disclose them and abstain from voting.

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# **OPINION: Dartmouth resident: “Is joining a protest more threatening than provoking an insurrection?”**

*The following is an opinion sent to New Bedford Guide. It does not reflect the opinion of New Bedford Guide, nor is it an OP-ED. In fairness and objectivity, we share opinions from our readers whether we agree or disagree with their opinion.*

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“If the polling of state legislators’ votes for president were allowed it would probably be a safe bet that the same individuals who voted to expel the two state representatives in Tennessee enthusiastically supported Donald Trump.

The double standard of accountability in politics is not new, but the sheer hypocrisy of so many legislators ignoring illegal, unconstitutional, democracy – defying antics of Trump, and his sycophantic cronies, and then punishing elected officials for expressing their outrage at the continuing murder of school children, is astounding.

If the expulsion of duly elected legislators is not reversed immediately, by a clamoring electorate or a court of law, then it will become the template for so many states that have elected majority right wing Republican legislatures, city councils, town committees and boards.

It is important to keep this story actively front and center in the news as other elected officials nationwide will follow

suit and utilize arcane, or outdated, rules or regulations to expel or silence the opposition. Having been unsuccessful at defeating their opponents in the voting booth they can accomplish their objectives by threat of expulsion for existing rules, or creating new ones.

The result will be far worse than any voting suppression that is being implemented as expulsion will accomplish the same insidious objective.”-Betty Ussach, Dartmouth.