

Old Soul Gardens at the New Bedford Cannabis Committee

Three businesses are trying to open a retail marijuana business in New Bedford, but all are facing obstacles mostly due to the zoning and rules implemented by the City. Old Soul Gardens detailed their frustration at last week's Licensing and Zoning for Cannabis Committee.

Details on each of the three businesses:
<https://www.newbedfordguide.com/three-see-to-open-retail-marijuana-businesses-in-new-bedford/2018/12/11>

Zoning rules:
<https://www.newbedfordguide.com/proposed-recreational-marijuana-ordinance-for-licensing-and-zoning-in-new-bedford/2018/06/14>

City Guidance:
<https://www.newbedfordguide.com/new-bedford-issues-guidance-regarding-establishment-of-recreational-marijuana-facilities/2018/10/09>

Full Cannabis Committee meeting:
<https://www.facebook.com/NewBedfordGuide/videos/736863030022549/>

'Ladders to Get Over Trump's Wall' Go Fund Me reaches

\$147k

You've probably heard about the Go Fund Me fundraiser to fund Trump's southern border wall with Mexico. Now there is a counter-fundraiser called '**Ladders to Get Over Trump's Wall**' that has reached \$147,228 at the time of this writing.

Currently, the '**We The People Will Fund The Wall**' created on December 16, 2018 has reached over \$16.8 million with a goal of \$1 billion. Ladders to Get Over Trump's Wall was created three days later with a goal of \$100 million.

The problem with Go Fund Me fundraisers like these is that none of the money will actually go to what their titles suggest.

Even if the wall fundraiser reaches \$50 million, which is highly unlikely, it wouldn't fund much of a wall. Most in politics know that the \$5 billion requested by Trump is far short of what is needed to fully secure the United States' southern border. What would \$50 million really do?

The '**Ladders to Get Over Trump's Wall**' fundraiser really isn't for ladders. Per the Go Fund Me page, it's a fundraiser for "the Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES), a Texas-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency that promotes justice by providing free and low-cost legal services to underserved immigrant children, families, and refugees."

The ladders fundraiser would better be titled '**Legal Services for those who made it over Trump's wall**' and the wall fundraiser would be better titled '**A Few miles of Wall**'.

Revere man sentenced to two and a half years for motor vehicle homicide

A 29-year-old Revere man whose negligent driving resulted in the death of a 65-year-old Lynn woman in North Attleboro three years ago was convicted of motor vehicle homicide last week in Fall River Superior Court after a four-day jury trial, Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced.

After trial, Judge Renee Dupuis sentenced Arman Chaudhary to two-and-a-half years in the Bristol County House of Correction, with one year to serve. The balance of the jail sentence was suspended for three years. Judge Dupuis also ordered the defendant to complete 100 hours of community service.

On September 20, 2015 at approximately 3 am, the defendant and two friends left a home in Pawtucket, RI. The defendant was driving his friend's BMW on Route 95 North in North Attleboro when he drove on to the grassy median to pass an UBER car.

After passing the UBER driver, the defendant got back onto the roadway and then lost control of the BMW while driving at speeds in excess of 100 MPH. The BMW the defendant was driving struck a Ford Expedition, which forced the Ford to flip over the guardrail and flip several times. A passenger in the Ford, later identified as 65-year-old Rom Tim, died from injuries sustained in the collision.

Several other people in the Ford were injured and sent to the hospital for non-life threatening injuries. The BMW eventually came to rest in the travel lane before being struck by two other vehicles.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Daniel

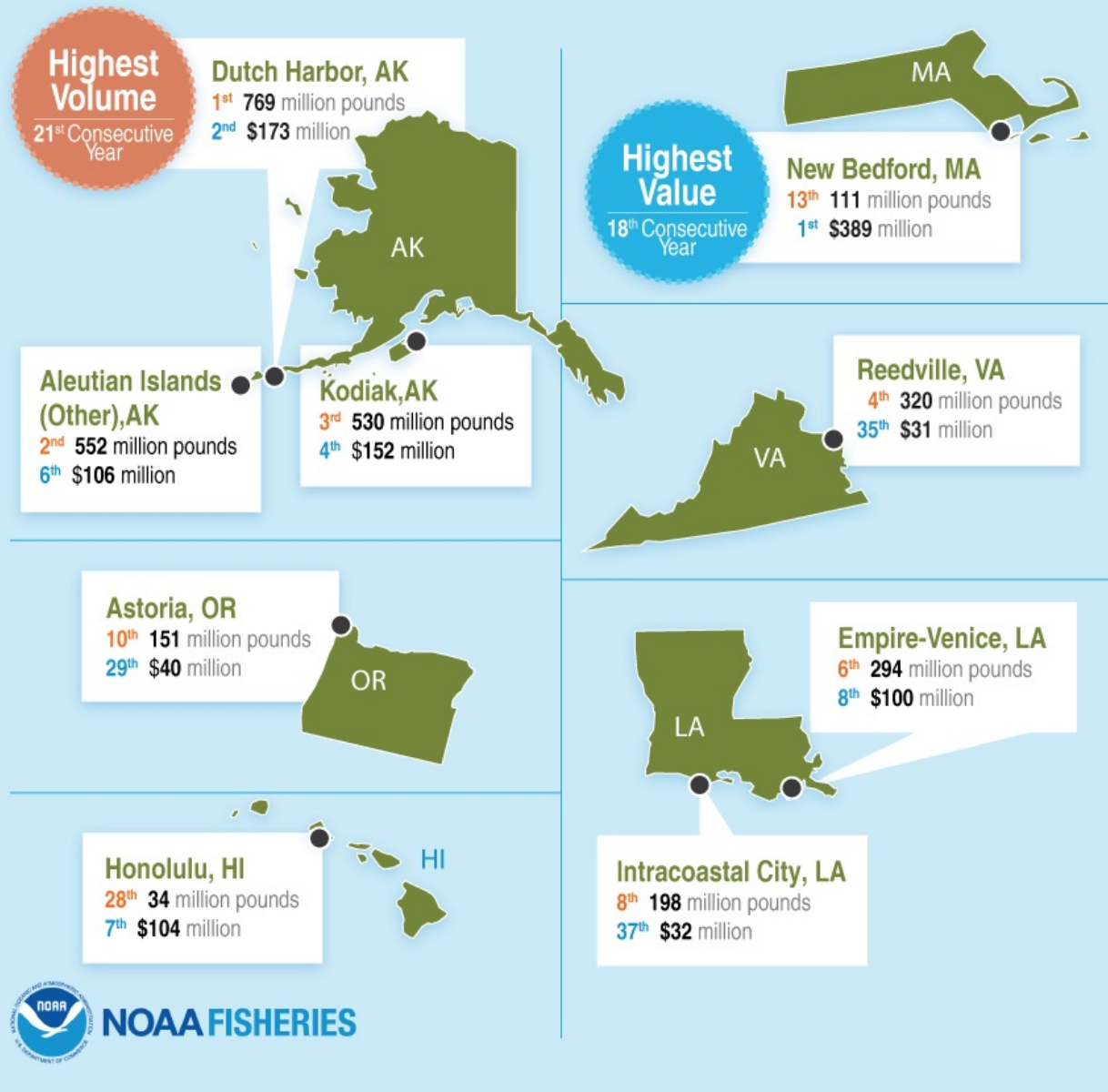
Walsh, who had argued that the defendant should serve the entire two-and-a-half year jail term during a sentencing hearing held after the jury's guilty verdict. The defendant, however, requested to only serve 30 days of the jail sentence, with the balance suspended for 29 months.

"The defendant engaged in reckless operation of a motor vehicle that killed the victim. It is particularly concerning that the defendant had a bad driving history," District Attorney Quinn said. "I am pleased that the defendant was held accountable for his conduct."

New Bedford highest fishing catch value for 18th consecutive year

According to NOAA, New Bedford is the highest catch value of any fishing catch value for the 18th consecutive year with \$389 million in value in 2018. That's up from \$327 million in 2016.

2017 U.S. Commercial Fisheries and the Seafood Industry Top Ports by Volume and Value of Seafood Landed



Mayor, City officials seek investments in New Bedford

public safety and neighborhood infrastructure

Mayor Jon Mitchell today announced a proposal to devote unused funds carried over from the previous fiscal year to invest in key public safety and neighborhood infrastructure needs, as well as bolster the city's finances.

The Mayor joined City Councillors, Police Chief Joseph Cordeiro, Public Infrastructure Commissioner Jamie Ponte, and Chief Financial Officer Ari Sky, during the announcement at Sassaquin Pond.

"Focusing on public safety and infrastructure are two key investments for every city," said Mayor Jon Mitchell. "Replacing aging police vehicles for our officers in the field with unused funds from the previous fiscal year makes all the sense in the world, and we want to ensure every officer has the tools to do his or her job."

On neighborhood infrastructure, the Mayor announced the second installment of a City initiative to negate runoff pollution from the surrounding streets to Sassaquin Pond. "Sassaquin Pond is a North End treasure and we must continue to work hard to protect it for future generations by treating stormwater that discharges to the pond," said Mayor Mitchell.

"It is important that the City of New Bedford continue to invest in critical areas including infrastructure and public safety," said Ward 1 Councillor Brad Markey. "These upgrades to the water filtration equipment for rainwater at Sassaquin Pond will ensure that the pond is clean and remains protected from possible pollutants. The City's Department of Public Infrastructure has devoted time and attention to safeguarding Sassaquin Pond, and this continues that effort."

The public safety investment will go toward eight front-line police vehicles and a number of pre-owned vehicles for unmarked use. The existing fleet of 68 police vehicles currently has an average age of eight years of service, despite previous rounds of upgrades, so continued vehicle investments remains a major priority for the Police Department.

The neighborhood infrastructure funds would be dedicated to continuing to improve water quality in Sassaquin Pond by protecting it from stormwater, which drains from a 20-acre drainage area in the vicinity of May Street into the pond. Annually, the new infrastructure will treat approximately 9.5 million gallons of water.

The Mayor also outlined his proposal to direct \$1,150,000 of unused funds to the City's so-called "rainy day" fund, or Stabilization Fund, and \$455,000 to the OPEB Trust Fund, which helps cover the City's obligation for post-employment benefits excluding pensions.

The City's continuing effort to boost its reserves and address its long-term financial liabilities have been important factors in the decision of Wall Street rating agencies to award the City the highest bond rating in the City's modern history.

**New Bedford – #1 fishing port
in the US, 7th lowest income**

in Massachusetts

Out of 39 cities and 312 towns in Massachusetts (351 total), New Bedford finished with the 7th lowest income in the state.

According to the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey (2013-17) via **The Boston Globe**, the median household income in New Bedford was \$40,626 – beating out only Lawrence (\$39,627), Fall River (\$39,328), North Adams (\$38,774), Holyoke (\$37,954), Springfield (\$37,118) and Monroe (\$31,458).

One has to wonder how the city with the highest valued fishing port for 17 straight years can barely beat out Fall River and other towns with no comparable major industry. **New Bedford brings in well over \$300 million a year through its port**, but as I've mentioned before, clearly the money doesn't stay in the city.

According to the Census ACS 1-year survey, **the median household income for Massachusetts was \$77,385 in 2017**. That means New Bedford households barely earn more than half the household income of the rest of the state.

The U.S. Census defines Median Household Income as “income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and over in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not.” Full definition [here](#).

Mayor Mitchell seeking \$6.8 million loan order for

rehabilitation of Buttonwood Park Pond

Mayor Mitchell is seeking a loan order of \$6.8 million to pay the costs of the Buttonwood Park Pond and Dam Rehabilitation and Dredging Project. The communication is scheduled for the City Council meeting on Thursday, December 13, 2018:

COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting a LOAN ORDER, in the amount \$6,800,000.00 to pay the costs of Buttonwood Park Pond and Dam Rehabilitation and Dredging Project.

Communication-Loan_Order-\$6_800_000-
Buttonwoodd_Park_Pond_Rehabilitation

Two City Councilors explore bringing “Do Not Knock” registry to New Bedford

New Bedford City Councilors Lopes and Abreu are requesting that New Bedford establish a “Do Not Knock” Registry similar to the one being used in Claremont, CA. The written motion is scheduled for the City Council meeting on Thursday, December 13, 2018:

WRITTEN MOTION, Councilors Lopes, and Abreu requesting that the City establish a “Do Not Knock” Registry, similar to the City of Claremont, CA.

Per the Claremont, CA document, “The Do Not Knock Registry

works similarly to a “Do Not Call” list and prohibits solicitation at addresses where residents and business persons have notified the City’s Finance Department that soliciting is not permitted on their premises. The Registry is updated every 30 days and all solicitors are required to obtain a list of the registry on the first of each month from the Finance Department.”

Full Claremont, California “Do Not Knock” Registry document:

12.13.2018_COMMUNICATION_-_DO_NOT_KNOCK_REGISTRY

Mayor Mitchell seeks \$7.6 million loan to replace New Bedford’s public safety comms system

New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell is requesting the City Council approve a loan order of \$7.6 million to upgrade/replace the City’s public safety radio communications system. The following communication is set to be in front of the City Council on Thursday, December 13, 2018:

COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting a LOAN ORDER, in the amount of \$7,662,000.00 to pay the costs of upgrading and replacing the City’s public safety radio communications system, including but not limited to the fiber infrastructure and radio tower installations, detail study and conceptual design, licensing and infrastructure implementation.

Three seek to open retail marijuana businesses in New Bedford

Three companies are seeking approval to open recreational marijuana businesses in New Bedford; SoCo Green, Whisk & JANE and Old Soul Gardens. Each has plans/letters that will be submitted to the Licensing and Zoning for Cannabis Committee for review on December 19, 2018. Here's a look at each:

SoCo Green LLC

1._COMM_-_SoCo_Green_LLC

Whisk & JANE LLC

Download link [here](#).

Old Soul Gardens

Download link [here](#).