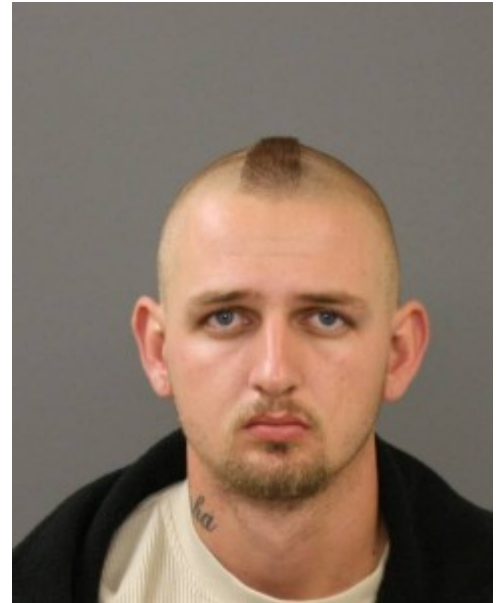


Man arrested for stealing purse from car in downtown New Bedford



Yesterday afternoon at approximately 3pm downtown Community Police Officer Gary Sarmiento was on routine patrol when he observed a male walking at a fast pace east on Union St. near the intersection of North Second St. The male appeared to be carrying a woman's handbag inside of his jacket.

As the officer stopped the male, a ten year old boy came around the corner and stated that the male had stolen the pocketbook from his grandmother's car.

The victim had left the handbag in her vehicle as she conducted personal business in the area of Purchase and William St. The grandson witnessed the theft and began following the suspect.

The handbag was returned to the owner and the male placed under arrest.

Cory Hart, age 22, of Buzzards Bay will be arraigned this

morning in New Bedford District Court. He is being charged with breaking and entering a motor vehicle and larceny.