

New Bedford Police Union cancels this year's Whaling City Festival

The following message was posted to the New Bedford Police Union's Facebook page:

A MESSAGE FROM NEW BEDFORD POLICE UNION PRESIDENT HANK TURGEON

Dear Family & Friends:

We regret to inform you that we will not be holding this year's Whaling City Festival which was scheduled to be held on July 11-14 at Buttonwood Park.

For the last several years, the New Bedford Police Union has taken great pride in sponsoring this event. Our priority has always been delivering a fun, safe and family-friendly event at an affordable cost.

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, including the severe and ongoing staffing shortages within the City of New Bedford's Police Department, the 2019 Family Fun Festival Carnival & Circus cannot take place as we had hoped. The City of New Bedford has chosen to operate its Police Department without a full complement of officers, and unfortunately, this decision has negatively impacted the Union's membership and resources.

Security deposits sent in by vendors will be returned shortly. We apologize for any inconvenience, and have made an effort to inform all affected parties as soon as possible.

The New Bedford Police Union remains committed to proudly protecting and serving the citizens of New Bedford, and sincerely hopes to sponsor this wonderful community event in the summers to come.