New Bedford Sea Lab building to be dedicated to former Mayor Kalisz, Aug. 13

Members of the community will gather on Saturday, August 13, 2022 for a dedication ceremony honoring a former Mayor, the late Dr. Frederick M. Kalisz, Jr. A plaque and exterior sign will designate the Dr. Frederick M. Kalisz, Jr. Sea Lab Marine Science Education Center. A public unveiling will take place outside at 12:30 p.m. at 71 Portland Street. Sea Lab shares the building complex with William H. Taylor Elementary School.

The posthumous honor comes nearly a year after the New Bedford School Committee voted unanimously on a motion put forward by member Bruce J. Oliveira on September 20, 2021 to name the Sea Lab building for Dr. Kalisz, who as Mayor oversaw the construction of the Sea Lab Marine Science Education Center in 2005. The complex was later expanded to include Taylor School.

The School Committee action came after deliberation of the City Council Committee on Memorials and Dedications March 9, 2021 vote (4-0) in support of pursuing an official recognition of the civic and educational contributions of Mayor Kalisz by dedicating a public school building in his honor.

Tragically, Mayor Kalisz died January 27, 2021 at St. Luke's Hospital due to complications from COVID-19, just three weeks before the vaccine would have become available to him.

In October 2021, a dedication committee formed with the endorsement of the Kalisz Family to oversee the project. Members include John Beauregard, Simone Bourgeois, Chief Joe Cordeiro (ret.), Dr. Joseph Costa, Stephen Furtado, Mrs. Patricia Kalisz, Michael Kalisz, Rick Kalisz III, Atty. George Leontire, Arthur Motta, Andrew O'Leary, Bruce Oliveira and Dr. Steven White.

The August 13 ceremony takes place on what would have been Mayor Kalisz's 65th birthday, according to family members.

The public is invited to attend the 12:30 p.m. unveiling and tour Sea Lab's summer student exhibits afterward. Free parking is available at the East Beach Parking Lot with free shuttle service to Sea Lab courtesy Trembley's Bus Company. Refreshments will be served.

Mayor Mitchell Announces New City Auditor

The City of New Bedford has hired Emily Arpke as its new Auditor, Mayor Jon Mitchell announced today.

Arpke comes to New Bedford from the Brockton Redevelopment Authority, where she spent four years improving and managing financial operations; directing all budgeting, grant program development and oversight; and managing compliance as the Chief Operating Officer. She also added \$6.5 million in new grant funding and doubled the Redevelopment Authority's staff.

Arpke has a bachelor's degree in Public Administration and Nonprofit Management from the University of Central Florida and a master's degree in Public Administration from Northeastern University.

"Ms. Arpke is a proven professional who will bring a high level of expertise and a dedication to public service to the Auditor's Office," Mayor Jon Mitchell said. "We're excited to have her on board."

Mayor Mitchell nominated Arpke for the position in a letter to

New Bedford City Council, which recently confirmed her appointment.

"Emily brings an abundance of energy and passion to the City Auditor role," said Robert Ekstrom, the former City Auditor who assisted in Arpke's recruitment. "She will question the status quo, seek out best courses of action, and work seamlessly with the Chief Financial Officer to support all facets of City government and the constituents it serves. In short, she is the innovative and interpretive watchdog any municipality aspires to have."

The Auditor's Office is responsible for the City's accounting and financial reporting system, including preparation of its annual comprehensive financial report; recommending and implementing financial policies; and administration of the annual budgets adopted by the City Council. Additionally, the office authorizes payments to vendors and monitors Federal and State grant activity, ensuring each complies with applicable laws, ordinances, and policies.

Learn more at: https://www.newbedford-ma.gov/auditors-office/

OPINION: "New Bedford Mayor shows complete disregard for community and health!"

"Yet again, the City of New Bedford stands to exploit its community. Two weeks ago, the mayor acted unilaterally by entering into an agreement with Parallel Products, now ironically called South Coast Renewables, without public participation or knowledge. Within this agreement, the mayor

agrees to not oppose any future applications of approval for the company's project which, due to ambiguous contract language, could include the reconsideration of biosolids processing, once again without seeking or requiring community consultation or consent.

This agreement incentivizes increased tonnage of trash processing, as the city will receive \$2 for every ton processed. It is worth noting that in similar agreements in other communities, host cities are receiving \$4 per ton. The maximum amount of waste tonnage received is not clarified in the agreement. The list of materials this facility will process according to this agreement includes multiple waste items that could be dealt with more sustainably and efficiently elsewhere. Rather than supporting the broken system of single stream recycling, the city should be advocating for expansion of programs like the Bottle Bill, Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging and paper, and other efforts to reduce and prevent waste. Commingling waste only leads to further contamination and guarantees most of this waste will not be reused or recycled.

The city should not be financially incentivized to bring in more waste and should not be encouraging more consumption, especially in a time of climate crisis. Additionally, there is no mention of how the types of waste will be monitored, how much would be recycled or reused, or where any of this waste would end up if/when it leaves this facility. \$2/ton is very little compensation for everything the community is going to endure. \$800,000 is a very small percentage of the city's \$431M dollar budget.

There is no moratorium for traffic on Phillips Rd, only a fining system in place that will be virtually impossible to enforce. What is the alternatively approved route? How will South Coast Renewables compensate New Bedford residents for this additional pollution, noise, and traffic in their communities, an "unquantifiable" impact? The agreement states

the City of New Bedford will "incur various expenses and impacts….both quantifiable and unquantifiable". Parallel Products explicitly admits this facility will negatively impact roads, infrastructure, and other public services in New Bedford. Additionally, there are costs that cannot even be calculated at this time. The unquantifiable impacts will be at the costs of residents and may mean anything from property values decreases, long-term health issues, and loss of business in the community.

It is quite unfortunate that neither the mayor nor the company brought in members of the community for feedback. It is especially disheartening that no member of zero waste initiatives or environmental groups were contacted by Mr. Cusson on behalf of the company. Guidance could have been offered on how to make this project economically feasible both for the company and the city, as well as truly environmentally friendly. The agreement states that both parties — the city and the company — were involved in the drafting of the agreement. Where was the community's input? Both parties are aware of South Coast Neighbors United/Citizens Against the Parallel Products Project, and deliberately left out the people who will be most impacted by these decisions. The mayor is an elected official who works for the people of New Bedford, not South Coast Renewables.

Considering this company's location in an Environmental Justice area, and New Bedford's history of environmental injustice, it is doubly discouraging to the members of the community. This was a backdoor deal to further exploit the citizens of New Bedford. Mr. Mayor, our health is not for sale! Shame on you!

Wendy Morrill and Tracy Wallace President and Vice President of South Coast Neighbors United."

Mayor Mitchell leads celebatory opening of New Bedford's historic bowling greens

Mayor Jon Mitchell formally opened the restored historic lawn bowling and croquet greens at Hazelwood Park in a celebratory event this morning, before a large crowd of community members and lawn sports enthusiasts. Elected officials, city leaders, project supporters, members of local lawn-bowling and mallet clubs, local youth organizations, and national lawn sports advocates all joined the event.

"Lawn bowling and croquet have rich histories in New Bedford, beginning with textile workers in the early 20th century who made these greens a social hotspot," Mayor Jon Mitchell said. "Restoring the greens has entailed a multi-year project involving public-private partnerships. We thank all those who contributed, and we look forward to the revival of play for players young and old."

The \$583,000 restoration project includes \$253,000 in City funding. Groundbreaking occurred in September 2020. The extensive improvements already have caught regional attention from lawn bowling and croquet enthusiasts.

Veronica Sum, president of Bowls USA, attended today's event and said the facility is one of only three of its kind in the northeastern U.S. Bob Kroeger, director of the USCA Instructional Schools at the National Croquet Center in Palm Beach, Florida, also attended and touted the greens' high quality and regional appeal.

The restored greens also are having an enormous local impact. Members of The Friends of Hazelwood Park, Marion Mallet Club, and other local groups attended today's event and celebrated the potential for local events, competitions, and gatherings.

Lawn bowlers 8 years old to 94 years old were on the greens today, reflecting not only the sport's accessibility for all ages and physical abilities, but also its capacity to enable intergenerational exchange and learning.

The City's Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches is coordinating use of the greens for club and family events, and offering clinics for anyone interested in learning the sports of lawn bowling and croquet.

Learn more at:

https://www.newbedford-ma.gov/parks-recreation-beaches/

New Bedford's Mayor Mitchell announces program to revive significant vacant properties

Mayor Jon Mitchell announced a new program today that is dedicated to reviving significant vacant properties in New Bedford. The program's goal is to revitalize neighborhoods and combat the impacts of residential, commercial, or industrial blight by providing financial support for projects that will return vacant or abandoned properties to productive use.

The Vacant or Abandoned Property Rehabilitation Program is supported by the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and will benefit properties in qualified census areas.

"Revitalizing underutilized properties can energize businesses and neighborhoods alike," Mayor Jon Mitchell said. "This program will give developers and businesses the support they need to move stalled projects forward."

The program is seeking substantial projects that have additional revenue sources and are ready to move forward quickly. Supported projects must begin funded activities within one year of the grant award, and total project costs must be at least \$750,000. Support from the program may not exceed 50% of total project costs. Chain stores and franchises are ineligible, and renovations or demolitions must not result in a reduction of the total number of occupiable housing units.

All improvements must be approved by the New Bedford Historical Commission, which will act as the City's Design Review Board to evaluate projects for their aesthetic, architectural, or urban design quality, and compatibility with nearby development.

"Advocating for the revitalization of blighted neighborhoods has been a top priority for me throughout my City Council service," City Council President Ian Abreu said. "I am very supportive of leveraging these one-time ARPA dollars to support efforts to restore the community integrity that every pocket of our city deserves."

The program defines vacant properties as those that are not legally occupied and have been unoccupied for at least six months. Abandoned properties are vacant and in a blighted condition, meaning one or more of the following qualities: unsecured; open to the weather; boarded-up windows and doors; disconnected or non-operating utilities; uncovered swimming pool; or the presence of perishable food, dangerous substances or chemicals, animal litter, trash, or debris.

Eligible activities supported by the program include:

- Rehabilitation, renovation, or costs to secure vacant or abandoned properties to reduce their negative impact
- Costs associated with acquiring and securing legal title of vacant or abandoned properties, and other costs to position the property for productive use
- Removal and remediation of environmental contaminants or hazards from vacant or abandoned properties, in compliance with environmental laws and regulations
- Demolition or deconstruction of vacant or abandoned buildings (including residential, commercial, or industrial buildings) paired with greening or other lot improvements as part of a strategy for neighborhood revitalization
- Greening or cleanup of vacant lots, as well as other efforts to make vacant lots safer for the surrounding community
- Inspection fees and administrative costs to ensure compliance with environmental laws and regulations for demolition, greening, or other remediation activities

Responses are due Sept. 30, and may be emailed to arpa@newbedford-ma.gov.

Questions about the program and responses also can be sent to that address.

Learn more on the City's ARPA website: www.newbedford-ma.gov/arpa.

Mayor Mitchell announces \$11.2 Million for new housing

developments in New Bedford

Mayor Jon Mitchell announced today more than \$11.2 million in funding for new housing developments that will revitalize key sites and create nearly 150 new units.

The five awarded developments applied for funding assistance this spring through the City's Housing Expansion Initiative, announced April 1. The initiative supports large-scale housing projects that are shovel-ready and will directly assist in the creation of new units for people with household incomes at or below the area median income.



"10 at 8th" artist rendering. City of New Bedford photo.

PROJECT NAME	ADDRESS	TOTAL UNITS	TOTAL AWARD
10 @ 8th	278 Union St.	53 units	\$3 million
117 Union Street	117 Union St.	45 units	\$3 million
18 and Union	Rt. 18 and Union St.	28 Units	\$2.85 million
Holy Family School	123 North St.	15 units	\$1.38 million
Hillman Street Firehouse	109 Hillman St.	8 Units	\$1.05 million

Total funding: \$11.28 million

City of New Bedford photo.

"These developments will energize neighborhoods and provide much-needed new units," Mayor Jon Mitchell said. "When we announced the Housing Expansion Initiative, we asked for projects that were shovel-ready and already utilizing other funding sources, but just needed a bit more support to get over the top. Given the current pace of inflation and the intensifying demand for housing, we want to get funds out the door promptly."

Developers of five projects recently received letters announcing their awards from federal funds received by the City under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program administered by the City's Office of Housing and Community Development.

Development costs for the five projects total more than \$71 million. The ARPA and HOME funding awards will support and leverage those private investments to fill funding gaps and move the projects toward construction.



Rt. 18 and Union Street artiist rendering. City of New Bedford photo.

"The American Rescue Plan was written to speed up our nation's recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and as rents continue to increase, the need for affordable housing in New Bedford is greater than ever," Congressman Bill Keating said. "Throughout the pandemic, we have repeatedly heard from activists and organizations calling for increased affordable rental units in the City, and I applaud Mayor Mitchell and the City's Housing Expansion Initiative for using ARPA and other federal funds to answer that call."

"It's no secret that we have a very serious housing shortage here in New Bedford, and it's incumbent on us to support the construction of these projects," City Council President Ian Abreu said. "I'm pleased to see that we're using these federal funds to help ensure these units are affordable for working families and seniors."

A majority of the new units across the five developments will be income-restricted, for households and earners making various percentages of the area median income.

Every development will be required to provide ongoing evidence that new tenants meet income guidelines, and where applicable, that owners meet affordable rent guidelines.

Learn more on the City's ARPA website:

www.newbedford-ma.gov/arpa.



Hillman Firehouse artist rendering. City of New Bedford photo.

New Bedford's Mayor Mitchell awards Top 10 NBHS graduates in annual "Mayor's List"ceremony

Mayor Jon Mitchell awarded the top 10 academically ranked seniors in New Bedford High School's Class of 2022 today in the school's auditorium.

Today's ceremony was the 10th annual Mayor's List Awards, in

celebration of the students' extraordinary academic achievements. The ceremony also was an opportunity to learn more about and celebrate the students' high school activities, higher education destinations, potential fields of study, and career goals.

Valedictorian Phillip Tran, for example, was a member of the high school's Science Olympiad team and the Mayor's Youth Council. He'll be attending in Brown University and plans to major in computer science. Salutatorian Tari Pereira was captain of the high school's varsity soccer and lacrosse teams, and plans to major in kinesiology on a pre-med track at UMass Amherst.

"This is an outstanding group of students who exemplify dedication and character, inside the classroom and outside," Mayor Jon Mitchell said. "We're very proud of them and all they've accomplished."

The graduates and their higher education destinations are:



01: Valedictorian: Phillip Tran, Brown University.



02: Salutatorian: Tari Pereira, UMass Amherst.



03: Abigail Perry, Emmanuel College.



04: Lillian Gray, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania

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05: Angel Cruz, UMass Amherst.



06: Daija Nunes, UMass Dartmouth.



07: Sydni Colson, Gordon College.



08: Diego Serra, Emmanuel College.



09: Dona Bonnie, Boston University.



10: Saige Amaral, Bridgewater State University.

New Bedford's Mayor Mitchell announces new grant opportunities for businesses and entrepreneurs

Mayor Jon Mitchell announced today that \$3.3 million in funding is being made available to support local businesses and entrepreneurs.

Earlier this year, the City launched a Small Business Assistance Program to distribute portions of federal funding that New Bedford received under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). On May 13, Mayor Mitchell and local arts leaders celebrated funding for local artists and arts groups, awarded through the small business program.

That same program is now allocating another portion of its funds, to assist local businesses and entrepreneurs affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and accelerate their financial recovery. The funding will be distributed under two separate initiatives: NBForward!, which will provide funding to businesses negatively affected by the pandemic, and NB100!, which will focus on assisting early-stage entrepreneurs affected because of their industry or location.

The New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC) will be tasked with administering the respective grant processes as an expansion of their long-standing small business support activities.

The NBEDC's two awarded programs will focus on small businesses and homegrown start-ups via new, streamlined processes that are designed to be easy to access, flexible, efficient, and measurable in outcome, with a goal of positioning New Bedford as one of the strongest and most diverse small business economies per capita in the post-pandemic Commonwealth.

"Entrepreneurs drive opportunity and growth in our economy. Positioning them for success will accelerate New Bedford's emergence from the pandemic," Mayor Jon Mitchell said. "The New Bedford Economic Development Council has a proven track record of supporting small businesses, and these two new programs will leverage their experience and expertise."

"Connectivity is critical to help small businesses achieve success throughout the business lifecycle," says Anthony

Sapienza, President of the New Bedford Economic Development Council. "From beginning to end, both NB100! and NBForward! are designed to not only provide New Bedford businesses with much-needed financial support to come out of the pandemic, but also the technical know-how necessary to remain viable and vibrant for years to come. No matter where someone may be in their entrepreneurial journey—whether they be just starting out or a well-established operation—in New Bedford we have a pathway available for them."

The NBEDC's new NBForward! program will offer at least 100 grants of up to \$20,000 — in conjunction with matching loan financing from other, non-ARPA sources, and with payments deferred for three months — along with technical assistance including business planning, resource guidance, and best practices.

NBForward! is designed to provide existing local businesses with working capital to position themselves for future growth. Eligible uses of the capital include:

• Business lease-hold improvements, construction, renovations (with documented

building-owner approval and City permit verification)

- Business lease or mortgage payments
- Business utility payments
- Business monthly insurance costs
- Business payroll
- Business inventory expenses
- Other approved business fixed and operating expenses

The new NB100! program aims to promote entrepreneurship, grow local wealth, and strengthen community bonds by helping 100 new businesses get off the ground. As the first phase of assistance, the NBEDC will lead technical assistance delivered by New Bedford SourceLink resource partners, including: EforAll, Groundwork, Co-Creative Center, New Bedford Ocean

Cluster, UMass Dartmouth, Bristol Community College, and Junior Achievement.

As a separate and subsequent phase, the NBEDC will offer \$10,000 grants to eligible

small businesses that have successfully completed the technical support program. Eligible uses of those grant funds will include:

- Business lease or mortgage payments
- Business utility payments
- Business monthly insurance costs
- Business payroll
- Business inventory expenses
- Acquisition of new equipment/property
- Construction/repair of existing property
- Reimburse business expenses incurred beginning March 3, 2021
- Working capital for other operating expenses

NBEDC staff will be engaged in managing both programs to ensure an efficient review and approval process for eligible applicants. The formal application process will be accessed via the NBEDC homepage at: https://nbedc.org.

Learn more on the City's ARPA website: www.newbedford-ma.gov/arpa.

New Bedford's Mayor Mitchell announces long-term lease for

PACE at Greene School

Head Start program secures dedicated home, increased grant ability.

Mayor Jon Mitchell announced that the City of New Bedford has established a long-term lease agreement with PACE, which will now have a dedicated home for its Head Start child development program in the former T.A. Greene School at 32 Madison St.

While PACE Head Start has been occupying 32 Madison St. since 1992, the family-centered program had been using short-term leases that offered a degree of flexibility but hindered long-term operating arrangements, capital fundraising campaigns and grant applications. The current short-term agreement was set to expire June 30.

The establishment of a long-term lease is a landmark occasion for the private nonprofit formally known as People Acting in Community Endeavors, which will now have the ability to apply for grants specifically geared toward early childhood education facilities that need capital improvements. At the conclusion of the lease's 25-year term, PACE will have the opportunity to take full ownership of the building.

"Securing a long-term home for PACE Head Start in its Greene School location is a milestone in our effort to support quality childcare options for New Bedford families," Mayor Jon Mitchell said. "It will facilitate building upgrades necessary for a successful early learning environment."

Pam Kuechler, Executive Director of PACE, said: "Our agency is excited to celebrate this momentous occasion in our 40th year of operation. We are grateful to secure our long-term future in a part of the city we're proud to call home. With this commitment, we can attract the capital resources necessary to maintain and enhance our high-quality learning spaces, and preserve this valuable historic school site into the future."

Head Start Program Director Jill Fox stated: "We are happy to be in such a great neighborhood, close to bus lines, the library and great playgrounds." Fox said the program will complete a major bathroom renovation at the site this month, and plans to conduct masonry repairs, roof improvements, and window replacements in the future.

PACE Head Start and Early Head Start provide family-centered child development programming for more than 260 incomeeligible families with children up to age 5 in the Greater New Bedford area. The program is free for families who qualify. Part-day and full-day center-based services are available Monday through Friday. Learn more online.

PACE, established 40 years ago in 1982, is a multi-faceted social services nonprofit serving Greater New Bedford whose mission is to deliver innovative and effective programs and services to the community in their pursuit of brighter futures. In addition to Head Start, PACE provides other early childhood, adult education, family support, housing, health, and basic needs programs throughout the area.

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Mayor Mitchell presents New Bedford's Fiscal Year 2023 \$471.5 million budget

Mayor Jon Mitchell presented his Fiscal Year 2023 City Budget to the New Bedford City Council on Wednesday, May 18, 2022.

Cautious, Conservative Spending Blueprint

Mayor Mitchell noted that the new City budget, the third developed since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, reflects continuing impacts on City revenues and expenditures that require a "cautious, conservative approach to budgeting."

The Mayor also expressed cautious optimism about the City's financial outlook, noting:

The City has been able to successfully manage the fiscal emergency of the past few years because of willingness to make tough decisions that are in the interest of the City's longterm fiscal health. Working together with the City Council, the City has taken a surgical approach to expenditure reductions that has not jeopardized public safety or decimated essential services relied on by residents.

Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding has provided the City with resources to support one-time costs and other key needs that otherwise could have drawn from the City budget or gone unfunded.

The local economy continues to hold its own. The City's unemployment rate has fallen significantly from its highest point during the early days of the crisis and continues to decline. Unemployment now stands at 5%, having further declined from 6.6% in January. Similarly, single-family home prices are trending upward, and commercial real estate investment opportunities are drawing attention from developers.

New Inflationary Concerns

New to this year's budget is the necessity to cover significant cost increases associated with sizeable inflationary trends in energy and materials. Gasoline, diesel fuel, electricity, and natural gas prices have all skyrocketed in the past six months, as the global economy is facing inflationary pressures, supply chain disruptions and geopolitical instability that bear directly on New Bedford.

Mandates Consuming Three Quarters of Budget

Unrelenting growth in non-discretionary, mandated items such as pension obligations, other post-employment benefits, and health insurance costs continue to crowd out available revenues for essential municipal services. Mandated portions of the budget now account for more than 75% of all spending in the General Fund Budget, including:

- Health insurance, pension, and other insurance programs will increase in total more than \$2.9 million, due to projected claims expenses and growing pension funding requirements.
- Funding for the School Department is projected to increase by \$22.6 million, or 11.9%, to comply with the Commonwealth's minimum Net School Spending requirements. This is one of the largest annual increases in memory.
- Funding for charter schools continues to consume an increasing share of City resources. The City's contribution to Charter School Sending Tuition has risen from \$22.8 million in FY22 to \$26.9 million in FY23. Charter school expenses have significantly reduced the funding available to address needs in New Bedford Public Schools.

Call for Council to Act on Employee Health Care

In his remarks, Mayor Mitchell noted how employee health insurance has become a substantial driver of cost increases in the budget, and as such, is a major contributor to the property tax burden on our residents.

Since 2012, employee health insurance costs have risen from \$35.2 million to \$45.7 million, or nearly \$1 million per year every year. The cost of employee health insurance will increase by 7% in FY23. Total spending on employee health care now accounts for more than 10% of the General Fund. And the return of inflation to the broader economy suggest that these trends will not let up anytime soon.

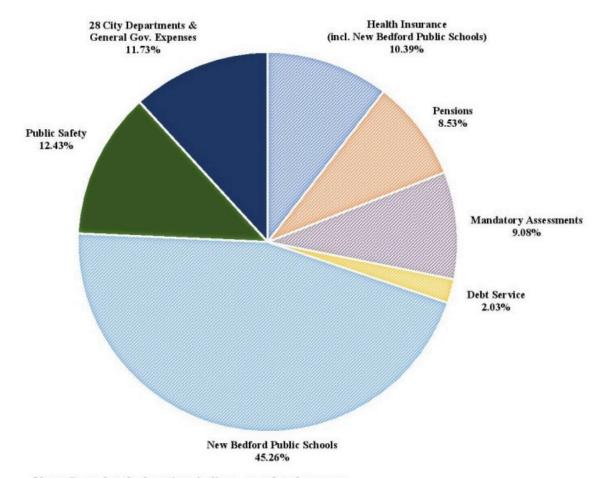
Mayor Mitchell used the occasion to again ask the City Council to implement a reform that virtually every other local government in southeastern Massachusetts has already implemented. Specifically, the Mayor called on the council to adopt Sections 21-23 of Chapter B of Massachusetts General Law. The adoption of these Sections equalizes the negotiating positions of the Administration and employee unions when negotiating health insurance benefits, by introducing a neutral arbiter.

A Commitment to Effective Partnership

Mayor Mitchell said the City will meet these challenges by relying on the cautious, deliberative approach and effective partnership with the City Council that long have served the City and residents well.

Read Mayor Mitchell's Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Address here.

The FY2023 budget totals nearly \$471.5 million, of which the General Fund is the largest component, at about \$420.9 million.



Note: Cross-hatched sections indicate mandated expense categories.

FY 2023 General Fund Appropriations by Category \$420,859,991.