



**2025 NEW BEDFORD
POLICE DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT**

COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY





TABLE OF CONTENTS

LEADERSHIP & VISION	3
Message from the Chief	
Mission Statement	
5-YEAR GOALS	5
5-Year Goals & Objectives	
Strategic Goals & Objectives Progress Update	
DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW	9
Command Staff	
Organizational Chart	
ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY & REFORM	11
Jensen Hughes Assessment Recap	
Professional Standards Unit Progress Report	
Violent Crime Intelligence Unit (VCIU) Progress Report	
DIVISIONS & OPERATIONS	15
Patrol Division	
Community Policing	
Community Presence	
Community Roll Calls	
Walking the Beat	
Riding the Beat	
School Resource Officers	
Traffic Division	
Lights On! Program	
Animal Control	
SPECIALIZED UNITS & INVESTIGATIONS	26
Professional Standards Unit	
Criminal Investigations Division	
Major Crimes	
Violent Crime Intelligence Unit	
Firearms Division	
Family Services Division	
Crime Reduction	
Port Security Unit & Dive Team	
Honor Guard	
Crime Analyst Unit	
CRIME STATISTICS	37
2025 Crime Statistics	
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	40
Budget Overview	
Communications Division	
FEDERAL, STATE & REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS	43
Federal Partnerships	
State Partnerships	
Regional Task Forces & Collaboration	
Behavioral Health Partnerships	
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	46
Behavioral Health Co-Response	
LEAD Program	
Community Crisis Intervention Team	
Post-Overdose Outreach	
Street Outreach	
Opioid Task Force	
Harm Reduction	
Homeless Emergency Assistance Response Team (HEART)	
COMMUNITY EVENTS	49
IN MEMORIAM	51
CONCLUSION	52



FROM CHIEF THODY

It is an honor to have been selected to serve as Chief of the New Bedford Police Department.

From my first day, I understood the responsibility entrusted to me by the City, the members of this department, and the residents of New Bedford.

Throughout my 29-year law enforcement career, I have always believed that public safety is a shared responsibility built on trust, accountability, and mutual respect. Those principles have guided me throughout my career and will continue to serve as the foundation of my service here.

As I reflect on my first several months with the department, I am grateful for the opportunity to work alongside the dedicated men and women who serve this city every day. I have spent this time listening to our officers, civilian staff, residents, elected officials, and community partners to better understand both the strengths of this department and the challenges we face. Those conversations have only reinforced my confidence in the people who make up this organization and my optimism for what we can accomplish together.

This annual report reflects the dedication, professionalism, and commitment demonstrated by the members of the New Bedford Police Department throughout 2025. Behind every statistic is a member of this department who answered a call for service, investigated a crime, assisted a victim, solved a problem, or took the time to build relationships throughout our neighborhoods. I am grateful for the opportunity to work alongside them and grateful for the commitment they demonstrate every day.

Looking ahead, I am confident that we can build upon the strong roots that exist here. We face the same complex challenges affecting law enforcement agencies across the country, but those challenges also present opportunities to improve. My focus will be on strengthening transparency and accountability, investing in our employees, enhancing community partnerships, modernizing our operations, and ensuring we remain responsive to the needs of the people we serve. We may face challenges, and we may make mistakes, but we will be open and honest about how we address them.

My wife and I appreciate the warm welcome I have received from the City of New Bedford and thank our residents for the trust they place in this department every day. I look forward to listening, engaging, and bringing relentless attention to the issues that matter most to our community as we continue moving this de-partment forward together.

Jason Thody
Chief of Police





MISSION STATEMENT

IN SERVICE OF OUR COMMUNITY

The mission of the New Bedford Police Department is to protect and serve our community by promoting public safety, strengthening partnerships, and enhancing the quality of life for all who live, work, and visit our city.

We are committed to fair, impartial, and professional policing, guided by accountability, transparency, and respect for the rights of all.

Through continued investment in training, innovation, and data-informed strategies, we strive to continuously improve and adapt to meet the evolving needs of those we serve.





5-YEAR GOALS



STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The New Bedford Police Department is committed to long-term strategic planning to enhance public safety, strengthen community trust, and modernize operations. The following goals outline key priorities that will guide the department over the next five years.

1



ORGANIZATIONAL MODERNIZATION & EFFICIENCY

- Update policies and procedures department-wide
- Complete staffing and space assessments for new station
- Streamline chain of command and reporting responsibilities

2



ACCOUNTABILITY & PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

- Implement updated complaint intake and investigation system
- Launch internal and external auditing processes
- Measure complaint resolution timelines and ensure compliance with Massachusetts POST standards

3



COMMUNITY POLICING & ENGAGEMENT

- Build neighborhood sector assignments for patrol officers
- Expand bicycle, foot, and park & walk patrols
- Launch forums and the Annual Community Trust & Transparency Report



5-YEAR GOALS

STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

These additional priorities focus on leveraging data, investing in personnel, and strengthening partnerships to support effective and sustainable public safety initiatives.

4



DATA-DRIVEN & EVIDENCE-BASED POLICING

- Reorganize COMPSTAT for real-time response to crime trends
- Implement targeted approaches to crime reduction (e.g., broken windows, Operation Ceasefire)
- Public data dashboard with key statistics and neighborhood-level problem-solving initiatives

5



TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Specialized mission-focused training for VCIU and patrol divisions
- Bias-free policing, constitutional stops, and ABLE training
- Collaborative and leadership training programs for command staff

6



PARTNERSHIPS & REGIONAL COLLABORATION

- Engage city, state, and federal partners
- Collaborate with community organizations on quality-of-life initiatives
- Information-sharing between Patrol and specialized units





STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



PROGRESS UPDATE

Since assuming leadership of the New Bedford Police Department, Chief Thody has initiated a comprehensive review of the department's operations, structure, and strategic priorities to advance the goals outlined in the department's five-year plan. This work is focused on strengthening organizational effectiveness, enhancing public safety, and advancing reforms outlined in the 2023 Jensen Hughes assessment and the principles of 21st Century Policing.

Chief Thody has reviewed the findings of the Jensen Hughes report with command staff to provide internal context and ensure a shared understanding of the department's current state and opportunities for improvement. Building on this foundation, the department has conducted a comprehensive internal organizational review, including staffing, deployment, policies, and key performance data.

As part of this process, the Chief has met individually with command staff, union leadership, division commanders, supervisors, members of the Professional Standards Unit, and civilian managers. He has also engaged with external stakeholders, including Mayor Jon Mitchell, the Bristol County District Attorney's Office, state and federal partners, and community leaders, to gather input and strengthen collaboration.

The department is currently reviewing operations within the Violent Crime Intelligence Unit (VCIU), evaluating Professional Standards Unit processes, and ensuring alignment with Massachusetts POST Commission standards. These efforts are informing the development of a strategic action plan that will guide implementation of recommendations from both the Jensen Hughes assessment and 21st Century Policing frameworks.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

KEY INITIATIVES UNDERWAY INCLUDE



- **Aligning patrol staffing** with call volume, time-of-day, and day-of-week data to improve deployment efficiency.



- **Increasing police presence** in neighborhoods through a data-driven approach focused on crime patterns and quality-of-life concerns, including expanded community roll calls.



- **Developing targeted action plans** to address public safety and quality-of-life issues, including:
 - Downtown bus station and surrounding areas
 - Scooter, dirt bike, and ATV operation citywide
 - Traffic safety enforcement
 - Identified hotspot locations



- **Implementing recruitment and retention strategies** to address staffing challenges.



- **Establishing internal committees** to enhance officer engagement and input, including:
 - Uniform Committee
 - Field Training Committee
 - Time-Off Committee
 - 150th Anniversary Committee



- **Initiating updates to policies and organizational structure** within the Professional Standards Division.



- **Conducting a full assessment** of the Woodcock shooting range to evaluate current conditions and operational needs.



- **Developing an updated organizational chart** to ensure a clear and efficient chain of command.



- **Evaluating the command staff structure** to support effective leadership and accountability.



- **Complete all training and certification requirements** for the Chief to be sworn as a police officer in Massachusetts.

These efforts reflect an ongoing commitment to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement, positioning the department to better serve the community while strengthening internal operations and accountability.

INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS (1–3 MONTH GOALS)

As part of the department's strategic planning efforts, a series of short-term (1-month and 3-month) objectives were established to initiate key operational and organizational improvements.

These early-phase goals were designed to build momentum, assess internal operations, and begin implementing priority changes aligned with the department's long-term strategic plan.



9

COMPLETED INITIATIVES



15

IN PROGRESS INITIATIVES



COMPLETED INITIATIVES

Completed initiatives focused on strengthening internal structure, enhancing communication across the department, and initiating key organizational assessments, including engagement with command staff, union leadership, and external stakeholders.



ONGOING INITIATIVES

Ongoing initiatives include continued evaluation of staffing and deployment, review of specialized unit operations and internal processes, and development of targeted action plans to address public safety and quality-of-life concerns across the city.



COMMAND STAFF



CHIEF OF POLICE
JASON THODY



ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHIEF
DEREK BELONG



ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHIEF
SCOTT CAROLA



CAPTAIN
JUSTIN KAGAN



CAPTAIN
NATHANIEL RODRIGUEZ

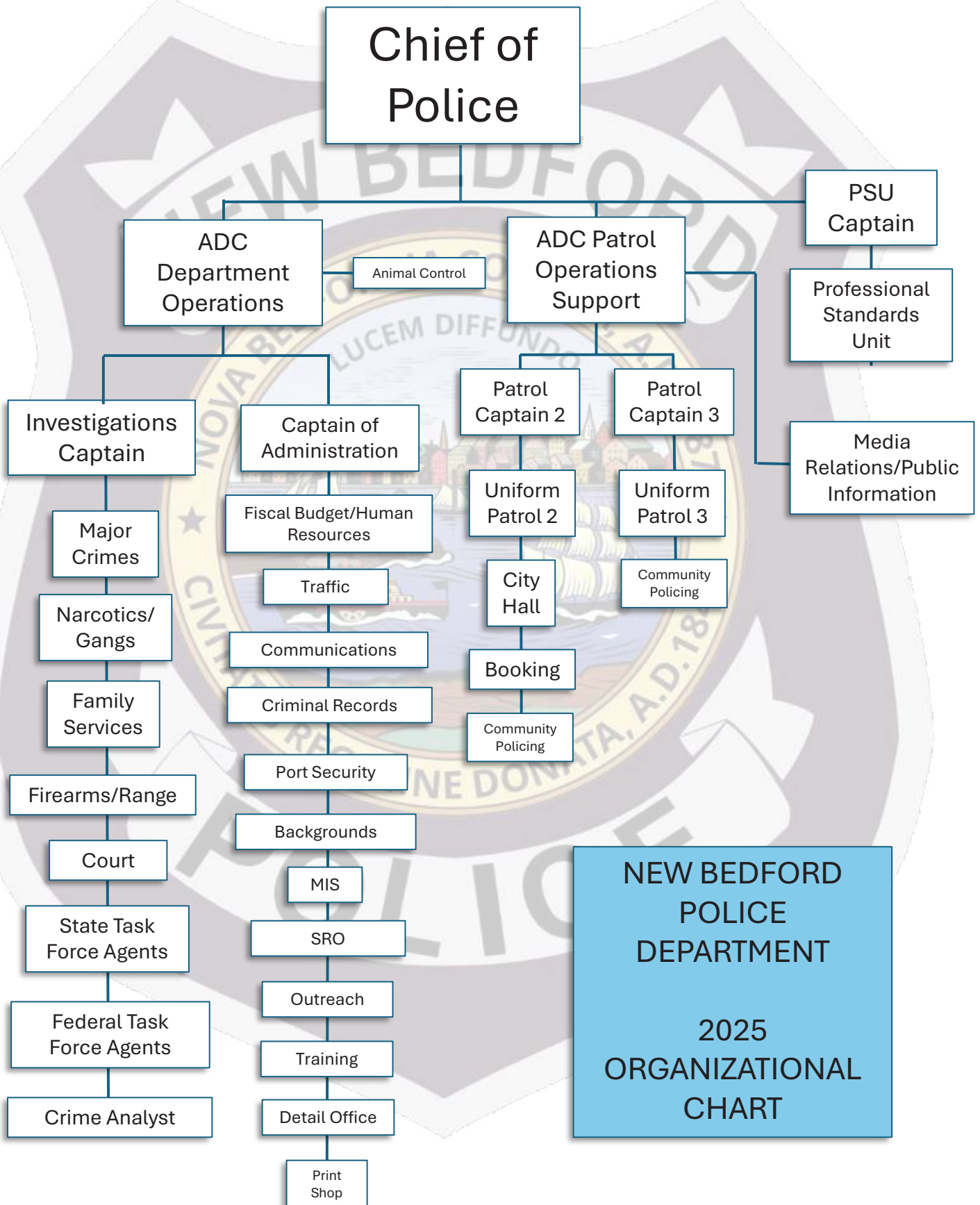


CAPTAIN
PAUL DACOSTA

CAPTAIN
ROBERT HOLMES,
RETIRED JUNE 2025



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





ACCOUNTABILITY



ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY, AND REFORM

SUMMARY

Accountability and transparency are essential to maintaining public trust and ensuring effective policing. In recent years, the NBPD has undertaken a comprehensive review of its policies, practices, and organizational structure through both internal oversight and independent, third-party assessments.

This section outlines the department's accountability framework, summarizes key findings from external reviews, and highlights ongoing progress toward meaningful reform and continuous improvement.

Together, these efforts reflect a commitment to professional standards, responsible leadership, and measurable outcomes.



INDEPENDENT
ASSESSMENTS



POLICY
REVIEW



ORGANIZATIONAL
EVALUATION



PROFESSIONAL
STANDARDS



CONTINUOUS
IMPROVEMENT



ACCOUNTABILITY



JENSEN HUGHES

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE REPORT](#)

JENSEN HUGHES ASSESSMENT RECAP

In 2023, the City of New Bedford commissioned Jensen Hughes to conduct an independent organizational assessment of the New Bedford Police Department. The review was requested to identify areas for improvement and provide guidance on strengthening modern policing practices, transparency, and public trust, while supporting the department's continued progress in serving the community.

The assessment examined departmental operations, policies, procedures, staffing, and leadership practices, and produced a series of recommendations intended to help the Department move toward a higher level of organizational effectiveness and accountability. The review also acknowledged the professionalism and commitment of Department personnel while recognizing that meaningful organizational change requires deliberate, sustained effort.

Following the release of the assessment, the NBPd documented actions taken and initiatives implemented in response to the recommendations. The assessment and subsequent progress efforts continue to serve as a roadmap for modernization, informing leadership decisions, policy development, and ongoing reform initiatives.

JENSEN HUGHES ASSESSMENT FOCUS AREAS



OPERATIONS & STAFFING



POLICIES & PROCEDURES



LEADERSHIP & SUPERVISION



ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEMS



ORGANIZATIONAL
EFFECTIVENESS





ACCOUNTABILITY

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS UNIT PROGRESS REPORT



ASSESSMENT & REVIEW

Following the issuance of the 21st Century Policing Solutions (21CP) report in October 2025, the NBPD initiated a comprehensive review of its Professional Standards Unit functions, with a focus on strengthening accountability systems, improving internal processes, and enhancing transparency.



POLICY & PROCESS EVALUATION

The 21CP review identified opportunities to improve consistency in complaint intake, investigative practices, documentation, and supervisory oversight. In response, the department has begun evaluating existing policies, procedures, and workflows within the Professional Standards Unit to ensure alignment with best practices and Massachusetts POST Commission standards.



REFORM IMPLEMENTATION

As part of this effort, department leadership has engaged with command staff, supervisors, and members of the Professional Standards Unit to assess current operations and identify areas for improvement. This ongoing review is helping to inform updates to policies, internal procedures, and organizational structure within the division. The department is in the process of developing a structured approach to implementing reforms, with an emphasis on improving accountability, ensuring consistent investigative practices, and strengthening oversight mechanisms. These efforts are part of a broader commitment to transparency, continuous improvement, and maintaining public trust.

[CLICK HERE TO TRACK OUR PROGRESS](#)

21CP PRIORITY AREAS

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE REPORT](#)



Complaint Intake



Investigative Consistency



Documentation Standards



Supervisory Oversight



POST Compliance



Accountability Systems





ACCOUNTABILITY

VIOLENT CRIME INTELLIGENCE UNIT PROGRESS REPORT



ASSESSMENT & REVIEW

Following the issuance of the 21st Century Policing Solutions (21CP) report in October 2025, the NBPD initiated a comprehensive review of its Violent Crime Intelligence Unit (VCIU) functions, with a focus on strengthening intelligence-led policing, improving investigative coordination, and enhancing interagency collaboration.



POLICY & PROCESS EVALUATION

The 21CP review identified opportunities to enhance intelligence collection and analysis, case management, documentation, and operational oversight. In response, the department has begun evaluating existing policies, procedures, and workflows within VCIU to ensure alignment with best practices and Massachusetts POST Commission standards.



REFORM IMPLEMENTATION

As part of this effort, department leadership has engaged with command staff, supervisors, and members of VCIU to assess current operations and identify areas for improvement. This ongoing review is helping to inform updates to policies, internal procedures, and organizational structure within the unit. The department is in the process of developing a structured approach to implementing reforms, with an emphasis on improving intelligence sharing, strengthening investigative capacity, and ensuring accountability. These efforts are part of a broader commitment to transparency, continuous improvement, and maintaining public trust.

VCIU PRIORITY AREAS

- ✓ Intelligence-Led Policing
- ✓ Investigative Coordination
- ✓ Information Sharing
- ✓ Case Management
- ✓ Interagency Collaboration
- ✓ Accountability & Oversight

[CLICK HERE TO TRACK OUR PROGRESS](#)





ON THE BEAT

DIVISIONS & OPERATIONS

The New Bedford Police Department is organized into several specialized divisions that work together to deliver public safety services, support community engagement, and maintain internal accountability.

The following section highlights the department's operational and investigative units, showcasing their roles, responsibilities, and impact across the city.





PATROL DIVISION



SUMMARY

The Uniform Patrol Division provides the NBDP's primary frontline law enforcement services and is often the most visible point of contact between the department and the public. Patrol officers work across three different shifts out of two police stations, providing continuous coverage and responding to calls for service throughout the city.

Guided by the department's community policing philosophy, the Uniform Patrol Division is responsible for preventing crime and traffic accidents through a highly visible, mobile presence. Patrol officers respond to calls and requests for assistance, initiate and conduct investigations, make arrests when appropriate, direct and control traffic, provide emergency services, and identify conditions that may impact public safety or quality of life. Through daily interactions, patrol officers play a key role in maintaining public order and fostering positive relationships with residents, businesses, and partner agencies.

The Uniform Patrol Division includes several specialized functions that support citywide public safety. These include the Traffic Division, which enforces traffic laws and parking regulations; Port Security, which provides security along the waterfront and at New Bedford Municipal Airport while enforcing maritime laws and supporting search-and-rescue operations; and Animal Control.



83,522

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE



2,450

TOTAL ARRESTS MADE





COMMUNITY POLICING



The New Bedford Police Department's Community Police Officers are dedicated to building strong, positive relationships between law enforcement and the neighborhoods they serve. These officers engage directly with residents, businesses, and community organizations by attending meetings, participating in local events, and maintaining a consistent presence within their assigned areas. This approach allows officers to better understand neighborhood-specific concerns and work collaboratively to address them.



Through community-based initiatives, Community Police Officers focus on crime prevention, public safety education, and quality-of-life improvements. Their work emphasizes communication, problem-solving, and partnership, helping to address concerns before they escalate and supporting long-term public safety goals.



Dedicated Community Police Officers are assigned to Station 2, Station 3, and the downtown substation at the SRTA bus terminal, serving neighborhoods and business districts across the city.



OUR COMMITMENT

*Building trust. Strengthening neighborhoods.
Working together for a safer New Bedford.*



COMMUNITY PRESENCE

Community Roll Calls, Foot Patrol & Bike Patrol



Community Roll Calls provide opportunities for residents, businesses, and local organizations to connect directly with officers in an open and informal setting. These meetings strengthen relationships, encourage communication, and help address neighborhood concerns through collaboration and shared solutions.



Foot Patrol allows officers to engage with residents on a personal level while building trust and fostering a sense of safety. By maintaining a visible presence in neighborhoods and business districts, officers can identify and address issues early and reinforce positive community connections.



Bike Patrol enhances mobility and visibility in parks, downtown areas, and high-traffic locations. Officers on bicycles can quickly interact with the community, provide assistance, and respond to issues while promoting accessibility and approachability.



COMMUNITY PRESENCE

COMMUNITY ROLL CALLS

Community roll calls are used as an opportunity for officers, including new recruits, to gain a deeper understanding of the city and the diverse neighborhoods they serve. By holding roll calls in different areas of New Bedford, officers begin their shifts within the community, allowing them to observe neighborhood conditions, learn local dynamics, and become familiar with the environments in which they work.

These roll calls often include walking assignments and neighborhood tours that help officers better understand the needs, concerns, and character of each area, reinforcing the importance of place-based policing and community awareness.





COMMUNITY PRESENCE

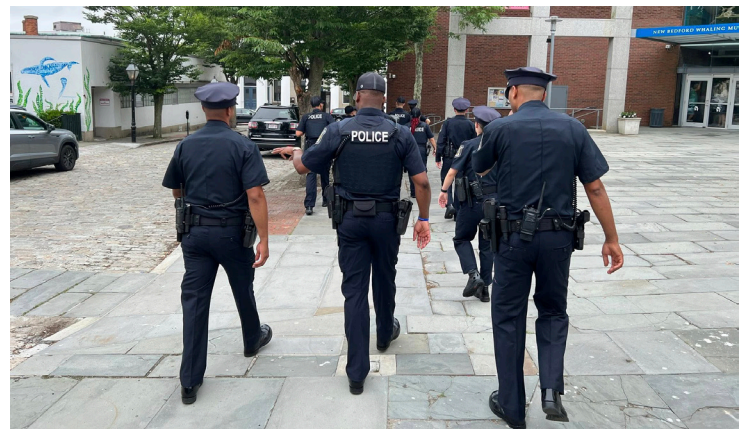
WALKING THE BEAT

FOOT PATROL

Walking the beat (Foot patrol) emphasizes direct interaction and engagement with the community. Officers on foot patrol spend time in neighborhoods and business districts speaking with residents, visiting local businesses, and maintaining a visible, approachable presence. This interaction helps build trust, improve communication, and address quality-of-life concerns through problem-solving and collaboration.



By being present and accessible, foot patrol officers strengthen relationships and work alongside the community to identify and address issues that matter most to residents and business owners.





COMMUNITY PRESENCE

RIDING THE BEAT

In 2025, the NBPD introduced a bike patrol capability as part of its broader community policing efforts. Officers completed a three-day bike patrol training in September, focused on safety, mobility, and community engagement, and bike patrol operations are being phased into regular deployment.

Bike patrols increase officer visibility and accessibility while allowing officers to cover greater distances than on foot, particularly in high-traffic areas, parks, and business districts. This approach combines the approachability of foot patrol with the flexibility to respond quickly when needed.

Community Police Officers also utilize e-bikes to enhance presence and engagement within assigned neighborhoods. As training and equipment resources continue to expand, bike patrols are expected to become an increasingly visible part of the department's community policing strategy.



INCREASED VISIBILITY

More officers where our community gathers



ENHANCED MOBILITY

Cover greater distances quickly and efficiently



STRONGER CONNECTIONS

Building trust through engagement and approachability



COMMUNITY PRESENCE

SUPPORTING SCHOOLS. BUILDING TRUST.



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER UNIT

The School Resource Officer (SRO) Unit plays an important role in promoting safety and building positive relationships within New Bedford's schools. Currently, the department has **seven SRO's** assigned across the city, working in collaboration with school administrators, staff, students, and families to help maintain a secure and supportive learning environment.

In addition to providing a **visible safety presence**, SRO's serve as **liaisons** between law enforcement and the school community. Their work includes supporting safety planning and drills, offering guidance to students, and participating in educational efforts focused on topics such as substance awareness, bullying prevention, and responsible decision-making.

SRO's are also actively involved in school and community events, where they **engage with students and families** outside the classroom setting. Through daily interaction, event participation, and relationship-building, SRO's help foster trust and open communication within school communities, contributing to a learning environment where students feel supported, safe, and engaged.



PRESENT. ENGAGED. INVESTED IN OUR SCHOOLS.



SAFETY

Providing a visible presence and supporting safe school environments.



RELATIONSHIPS

Building trust and open communication with students, staff, and families.



EDUCATION

Supporting students through guidance, resources, and preventative programs.



COMMUNITY

Engaging in events and activities that strengthen school communities.



COMMUNITY PRESENCE

TRAFFIC DIVISION



ENFORCING LAWS. PROTECTING LIVES.
KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY MOVING.

The Traffic Division is responsible for enforcing traffic laws and parking regulations in accordance with Massachusetts law and the City of New Bedford ordinances. Through targeted enforcement, traffic safety initiatives, and a visible presence in high-risk areas, the division works to reduce crashes, improve roadway safety, and address quality-of-life concerns related to traffic violations.

Officers conduct directed enforcement in areas identified through data analysis and community feedback, focusing on behaviors that pose risks to motorists and pedestrians, including speeding, red light and stop sign violations, and distracted driving.

In addition to enforcement efforts, the Traffic Division supports public safety through traffic control at major incidents, community events, construction projects, and emergencies, helping ensure the safe and efficient movement of vehicles and pedestrians throughout the city.



2025 TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT DATA



TOTAL TRAFFIC
STOPS
2,648



TOTAL CITATIONS
ISSUED
2,591



TOTAL WARNINGS
ISSUED
21 (verbal)
2,433 (written)



PEDESTRIAN
SAFETY-ENFORCEMENT
ACTIONS
3



ENFORCEMENT
Targeted enforcement
to reduce violations
and improve safety.



EDUCATION
Promoting responsible
driving and awareness
in our community.



PARTNERSHIP
Working with residents
to identify concerns and
improve roadways.



SAFETY
Supporting safe travel
for all motorists,
pedestrians, and cyclists.



COMMUNITY FOCUS



LIGHTS ON!

A PROGRAM OF MICROGRANTS



PARTNERING WITH

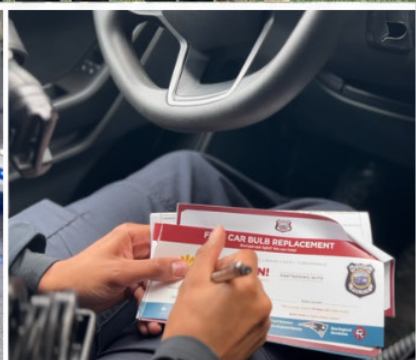


The department introduced the **Lights On! Program** in the Fall of 2021 as a community-focused traffic safety initiative aimed at improving roadway safety while reducing the financial burden of vehicle repairs. Funded through a partnership with the New England Patriots, the program replaced traffic citations for equipment violations, such as broken headlights, taillights, brake lights, and turn signals, with free repair vouchers.

Through the program, eligible drivers received repair vouchers valued at **up to \$250**, which could be used at participating local auto body shops. By prioritizing education and problem-solving over enforcement, the Lights On! Program transformed routine traffic stops into positive, solution-focused interactions that strengthened police-community relationships.

From its launch in 2021 through August 2025, the department issued **nearly 300 repair vouchers**, resulting in safer vehicles on the road and overwhelmingly positive feedback from both residents and officers.

The Department continues to explore opportunities to support similar initiatives in the future that promote roadway safety and community.



WATCH LIGHTS ON! IN ACTION

Click or scan the QR code to view a short video highlighting how the program works and its impact on the community.

CLICK OR SCAN



NEARLY

300

REPAIR VOUCHERS
ISSUED

From 2021 through
August 2025



OUR COMMITMENT

Investing in initiatives
that promote roadway
safety and community
engagement.



ANIMAL CONTROL



PROTECTING ANIMALS.
PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY.

The New Bedford Animal Control Office is a civilian division within the New Bedford Police Department and plays an important role in protecting both public safety and animal welfare. The Animal Control Division operates under a strict code of ethics while carrying out its responsibilities across the city.

Animal Control Officers investigate incidents involving animal bites, abused or neglected animals, dogs running at large, sick or injured animals, and noise-related complaints. In addition to investigative responsibilities, the division enforces applicable federal, state, and municipal laws governing the proper care and control of animals.

Through enforcement, education, and responsible oversight, the Animal Control Division works to protect the animals of the community while ensuring the safety and well-being of New Bedford residents.



2025 ANIMAL CONTROL BY THE NUMBERS



11,015
TOTAL CALLS
FOR SERVICE



3,776
CALLS FOR SERVICE
DISPATCHED



5,528
CALLS FOR SERVICE
PHONED IN



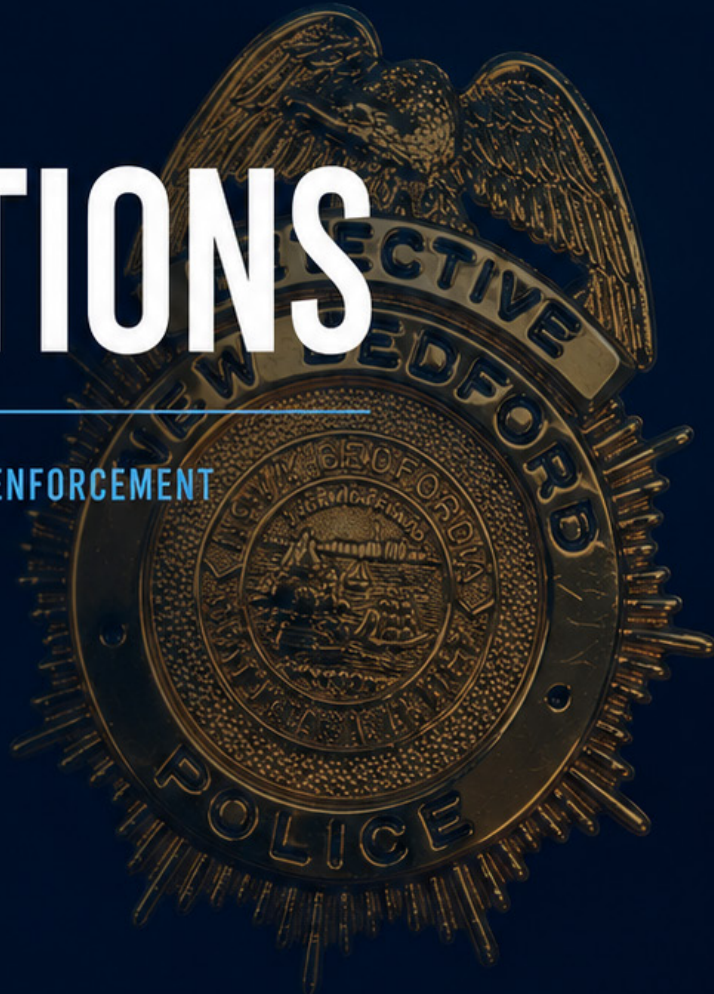
502
CITATIONS ISSUED



KEEPING OUR CITY SAFE

SPECIALIZED UNITS & INVESTIGATIONS

DETECTIVES • SPECIALIZED UNITS • TARGETED ENFORCEMENT





SPECIALIZED UNITS

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS UNIT

ACCOUNTABILITY • INTEGRITY • TRANSPARENCY

The Professional Standards Unit (PSU) is responsible for overseeing internal accountability processes and ensuring members of the New Bedford Police Department adhere to established policies, procedures, and professional standards.

The unit manages the intake, review, and investigation of complaints involving department personnel, as well as internal administrative inquiries. Through these responsibilities, PSU ensures investigations are conducted thoroughly, fairly, and in accordance with applicable laws and departmental policy.

PSU also supports compliance with Massachusetts POST Commission standards and plays an important role in advancing transparency, consistency, and accountability throughout the department.

By providing impartial oversight and maintaining high professional standards, the Professional Standards Unit helps reinforce public trust and uphold the integrity of the New Bedford Police Department.

FY 2025 BY THE NUMBERS



89

TOTAL COMPLAINTS
RECEIVED



89

TOTAL CASES
REVIEWED / INVESTIGATED



84

CASES CLOSED



SPECIALIZED UNITS

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

DETAILED INVESTIGATIONS SAFER CITY

The Criminal Investigations Division is responsible for conducting follow-up investigations into serious and complex criminal matters and provides specialized investigative support to the NBPD.

Working closely with the Patrol Division, detectives assume responsibility for cases requiring extended investigation, specialized expertise, and coordination with internal units and external partners.

The division oversees several investigative and support units, including Major Crimes, the Violent Crime Intelligence Unit, the Firearms Unit, the Family Services/Juvenile Division, Court Liaison, and the Crime Analyst Unit, and also participates in federal task forces.



INVESTIGATIVE & SUPPORT UNITS



MAJOR CRIMES



VIOLENT CRIME
INTELLIGENCE UNIT



FIREARMS UNIT



FAMILY SERVICES /
JUVENILE DIVISION



COURT LIAISON



CRIME ANALYST UNIT



ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN
FEDERAL TASK FORCES



SPECIALIZED UNITS



MAJOR CRIMES UNIT

Major Crimes detectives are responsible for investigating the most serious and complex criminal incidents affecting the City of New Bedford. These investigations often begin with incidents responded to by patrol officers and require sustained follow-up, specialized investigative techniques, and coordination across units and agencies.

Major Crimes investigations include offenses such as homicides, shootings, stabbings, robberies, aggravated assaults, and other serious felony crimes. Detectives work to identify suspects, gather and analyze evidence, interview witnesses, and collaborate with prosecutorial partners to support successful case outcomes.

2025 BY THE NUMBERS



236

TOTAL CASES INVESTIGATED



4

HOMICIDES INVESTIGATED



48

SHOOTING INCIDENTS
INVESTIGATED



31%

CLEARANCE RATE



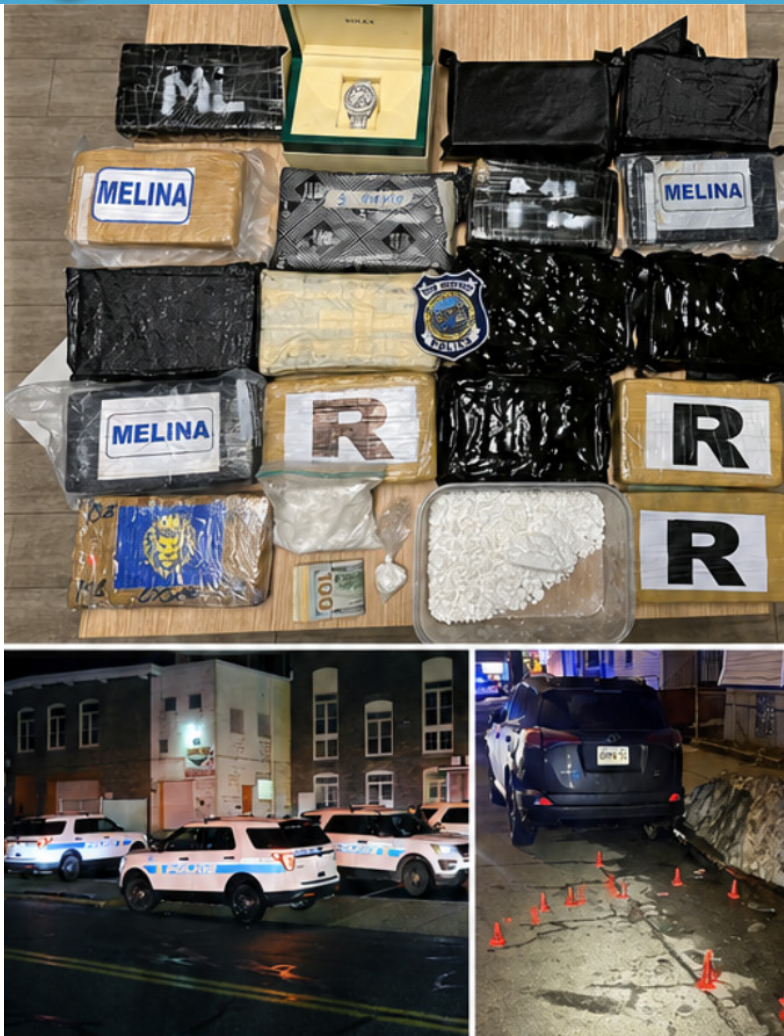
SPECIALIZED UNITS

VIOLENT CRIME INTELLIGENCE UNIT

The Violent Crime Intelligence Unit is responsible for investigating complex criminal activity related to illegal narcotics distribution and the possession, use, and trafficking of illegal firearms within the City of New Bedford. Detectives focus on intelligence-driven investigations aimed at identifying individuals and networks involved in organized criminal activity that pose a significant risk to public safety.

VCIU utilizes a combination of investigative techniques, intelligence analysis, and interagency collaboration to disrupt drug trafficking operations and remove illegal firearms from the community. Detectives work closely with local, state, and federal law enforcement partners to coordinate investigations, share intelligence, and pursue cases that extend beyond municipal boundaries.

Through targeted investigations and sustained enforcement efforts, VCIU plays a critical role in reducing violence, addressing drug-related crime, and supporting the Department's broader mission to enhance public safety and community well-being.



2025 BY THE NUMBERS



300

DRUG RELATED INVESTIGATIONS



37

FIREARMS SEIZED



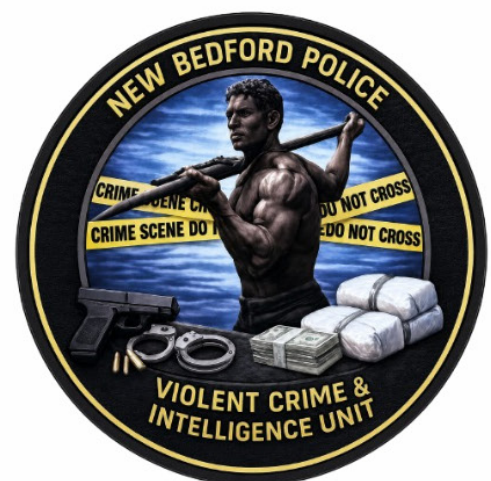
740

ARRESTS RELATED TO ORGANIZED CRIMINAL ACTIVITY



54

SEARCH WARRANTS EXECUTED





COMMUNITY PRESENCE



FIREARMS DIVISION

The Firearms Division plays a critical role in supporting public safety through firearm licensing, investigative assistance, and officer training. The division is responsible for managing the firearm licensing and permitting process, including conducting required background checks and evaluations to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

In addition to licensing responsibilities, the Firearms Division assists with investigations involving firearms-related incidents and works closely with other investigative units to address illegal firearm activity. This coordination supports efforts to remove unlawful firearms from the community and hold offenders accountable.

The division also supports officer readiness by coordinating firearm-related training and qualification standards. Through ongoing training and safety oversight, the unit helps ensure that officers maintain proficiency, follow best practices, and meet established standards related to firearm safety and use.



2025 BY THE NUMBERS



1,497

FIREARMS PROCESSED



**FIREARMS-RELATED
INVESTIGATIONS SUPPORTED**

From Patrol/Criminal
Investigations Division

119



50

OFFICER TRAINING
SESSIONS CONDUCTED
FOR FIREARMS



7 WEEKS

AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME
FOR LTCs



SPECIALIZED UNITS



FAMILY SERVICES UNIT

The Family Services Unit is responsible for investigating incidents involving juveniles, domestic violence, elder abuse, and other sensitive cases impacting families and vulnerable populations. These investigations require a specialized approach that prioritizes victim safety, confidentiality, and trauma-informed practices.

The Unit oversees cases related to juvenile matters, domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, and elder or disabled person abuse. Detectives work closely with schools, the Department of Children and Families, the Bristol County District Attorney's Office, and community-based organizations to ensure appropriate intervention, support services, and ongoing follow-up.

The Unit is supported by civilian personnel, including civilian advocates and a Family Services Project Coordinator, who play a critical role in assisting victims, coordinating services, connecting individuals and families with resources, and providing support throughout the court process.

Through this collaborative and victim-centered approach, the Family Services Unit plays a vital role in protecting vulnerable individuals, supporting families, and promoting long-term safety and stability within the community.

The volume of advocacy contacts and referrals highlights the Division's dual role in both investigation and victim support, ensuring individuals receive continued assistance beyond the initial police response.



All sexual assault and related investigations are submitted to the Bristol County District Attorney's Office for review and charging decisions. The Family Services Unit works closely with prosecutors to ensure cases are thoroughly investigated and appropriately prosecuted.

2025 BY THE NUMBERS



202

SEXUAL ASSAULT INVESTIGATIONS

(includes sexual assaults, rape, indecent assault and battery, child exploitation, and distribution of child sexual abuse material)



22

ELDER/DISABLED PERSON ABUSE INVESTIGATIONS



EMERGENCY RESTRAINING ORDER ASSISTANCE

116

GRANTED

9

DENIED

151

INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED

276

TOTAL ERO-RELATED ASSISTANCE



VICTIM ADVOCACY & SUPPORTED SERVICES



1,475

REFERRAL LETTERS ISSUED



157

HQ/COURT ASSIST



315

FOLLOW-UP CONTACT



472

TOTAL ADVOCACY INTERACTIONS



CRIME REDUCTION

FOCUSED ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

(NOVEMBER 7 – DECEMBER 30)

During this reporting period, the Crime Reduction Team (CRT) conducted focused enforcement efforts targeting illegal scooter and moped activity throughout the city. These operations were initiated in response to ongoing public safety concerns related to unregistered vehicles, riders operating without proper licensing or helmets, and quality-of-life complaints from residents. In several instances, scooters and mopeds had also been associated with criminal activity, including incidents involving firearms.

To address these concerns, the Crime Reduction Team worked in coordination with the Violent Crime Intelligence Unit (VCIU), as well as patrol officers. These coordinated efforts focused on identifying unlawful vehicle operation, improving roadway safety, and addressing disorder and criminal activity connected to scooter and moped use.

From November 7th through December 30, enforcement activity resulted in a significant number of incidents, arrests, citations, and vehicle tows across multiple divisions.



LEARN MORE

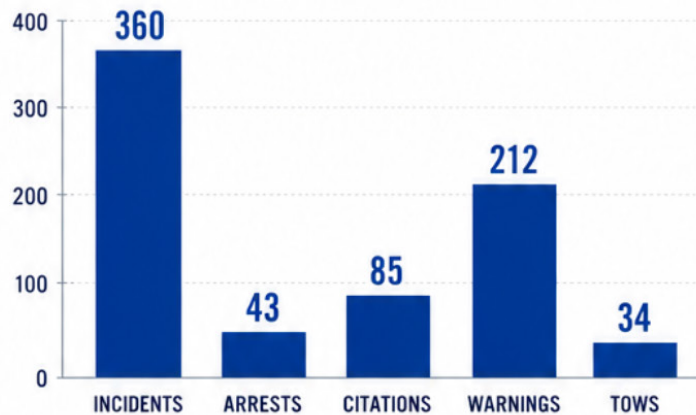
Watch how the NBPD's focused enforcement efforts targeting illegal scooters and mopeds led to the recovery of an illegal firearm following a motor vehicle crash.



CLICK OR SCAN



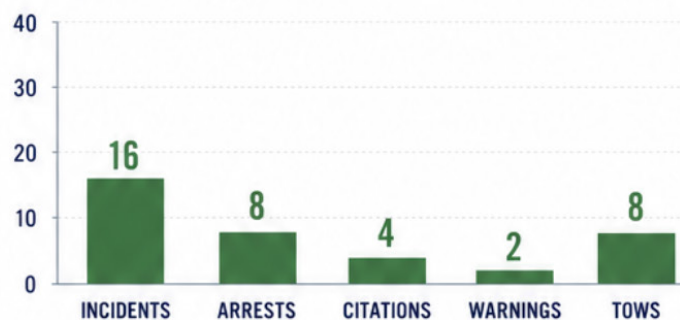
CRIME REDUCTION TEAM (CRT)



VIOLENT CRIME INTELLIGENCE UNIT (VCIU)



PATROL DIVISION





SPECIALIZED UNITS



PORT SECURITY

The Port Security Unit plays a critical role in safeguarding New Bedford's harbor, waterfront, and port areas. Officers conduct regular waterborne patrols to monitor activity, enforce maritime laws, and respond to incidents on the water.

The unit supports search and rescue operations and works in coordination with partner agencies, including the U.S. Coast Guard and Massachusetts State Police, to address public safety concerns and illegal maritime activity. Officers also support Transportation Security Administration (TSA) operations at the New Bedford Regional Airport, assisting with security efforts and coordination as needed.

Through a visible presence and specialized capabilities, the unit helps ensure the safety and security of the city's waterfront and transportation infrastructure.

2025 BY THE NUMBERS



MARINE PATROLS
CONDUCTED

17



CALLS FOR SERVICE
ON THE WATER

1,272



SEARCH & RESCUE
OPERATIONS

6



ASSISTS TO
OTHER AGENCIES

33



VESSEL SAFETY
CHECKS

25



VINEYARD WIND VESSEL
ESCORTS/ASSISTS

141

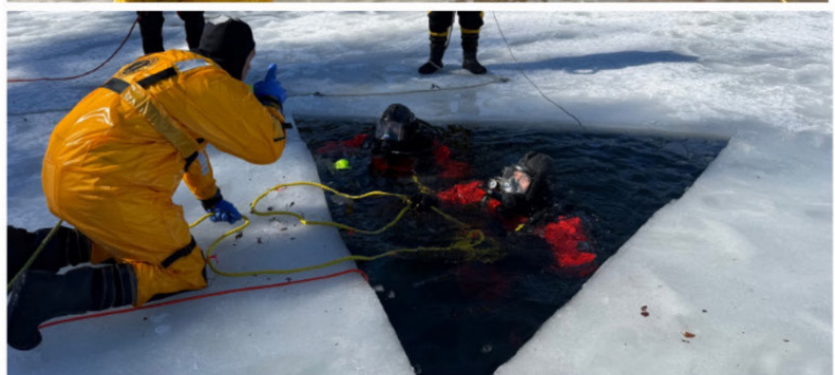


DIVE TEAM

The Dive Team is a highly trained unit responsible for conducting underwater operations in support of law enforcement and public safety efforts.

Officers perform search and recovery missions, assist in water-related emergencies, and locate and preserve evidence in challenging aquatic environments. Their specialized training enhances the Department's ability to respond to critical incidents and conduct thorough investigations.

The Dive Team was called to assist with six recovery/searches in 2025.





SPECIALIZED UNITS

HONOR GUARD

The Honor Guard Unit consists of nine sworn members who serve as the department's ceremonial representatives at official functions and significant events.

The unit plays a vital role in honoring fallen officers, recognizing service, and preserving law enforcement traditions. Members participate in funerals, memorial ceremonies, departmental events, and regional and national observances.

Through disciplined training and precise ceremonial performance, the Honor Guard ensures that moments of recognition and remembrance are conducted with dignity and respect, reflecting the values of the New Bedford Police Department.



The New Bedford Police Department maintains specialized units that provide unique capabilities beyond traditional patrol and investigative functions. These units support public safety operations across land and water, while also representing the Department at ceremonial and community events.





CRIME ANALYST UNIT



The Crime Analyst Unit is a civilian unit responsible for analyzing crime data and identifying trends across the city. The unit compiles and evaluates statistics that support operational decision-making, resource allocation, and strategic planning.

In addition to producing the department's annual crime report, the unit provides on-

going analysis that supports daily operations, including identifying crime patterns, monitoring hotspot locations, and assisting with targeted enforcement efforts.

Through this work, the Crime Analyst Unit supports data-driven policing strategies and helps guide the department's overall approach to public safety.



CRIME OVERVIEW

CRIME OVERVIEW

2025 CITYWIDE CRIME STATISTICS

The New Bedford Police Department compiles and publishes an annual crime report to monitor public safety trends, inform resource allocation, and support data-driven policing strategies. This section provides an overview of reported crime in 2025, along with key citywide trends and activity levels.



1,938

PART 1 CRIMES



361

VIOLENT CRIMES



1,590

PROPERTY CRIMES



52

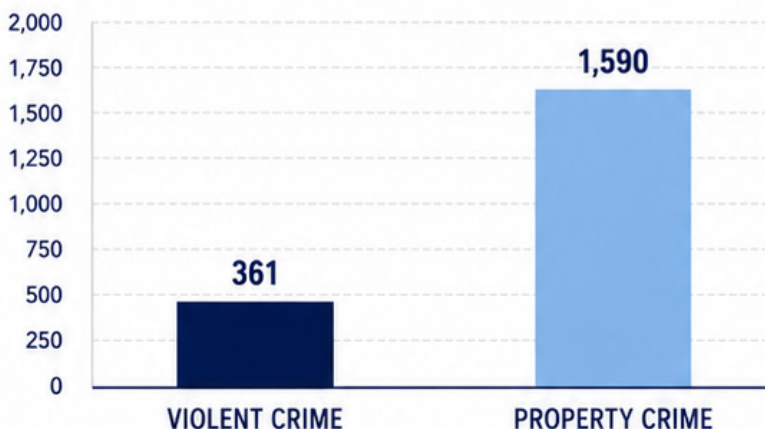
CONFIRMED
SHOTS FIRED
INCIDENTS



83,522

CALLS FOR SERVICE

PART 1 CRIME BREAKDOWN



“

Crime levels in 2025 remained significantly lower than historical levels, reflecting continued progress in reducing both violent and property crime while maintaining a high level of service to the community.



CRIME TRENDS

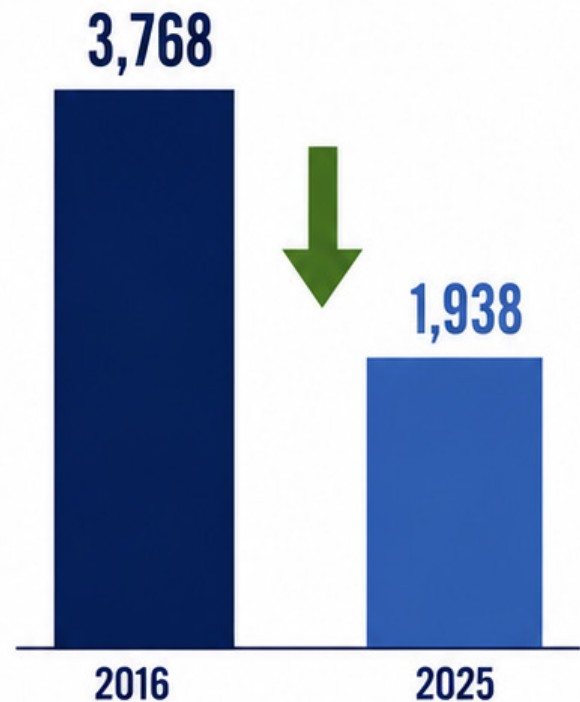
2016–2025

The following comparison illustrates how Part 1 crime has changed over the past decade.

Overall, both violent and property crime have declined significantly since 2016.

CRIME	2016	2025	% CHANGE
VIOLENT CRIME	802	361	-55.0%
Murder	3	4	+33.3%
Rape	85	113	+32.9%
Robbery	240	68	-71.7%
Aggravated Assault	515	217	-57.9%
PROPERTY CRIME	3,003	1,590	-47.1%
Arson	20	10	-50.0%
Burglary	647	206	-68.2%
Larceny	2,158	1,155	-46.5%
Motor Vehicle Theft	292	263	-9.9%
TOTAL PART 1 CRIME	3,768	1,938	-48.6%

TOTAL PART 1 CRIME



48.6%

REDUCTION SINCE 2016



Since 2016, Part 1 crime in New Bedford has declined by nearly half. While individual offense categories may fluctuate year to year, long-term trends show substantial reductions in both violent and property crime, reflecting sustained enforcement efforts, focused deterrence strategies, and strong community partnerships.



2025 CRIME STATS

CALLS FOR SERVICE (2025)

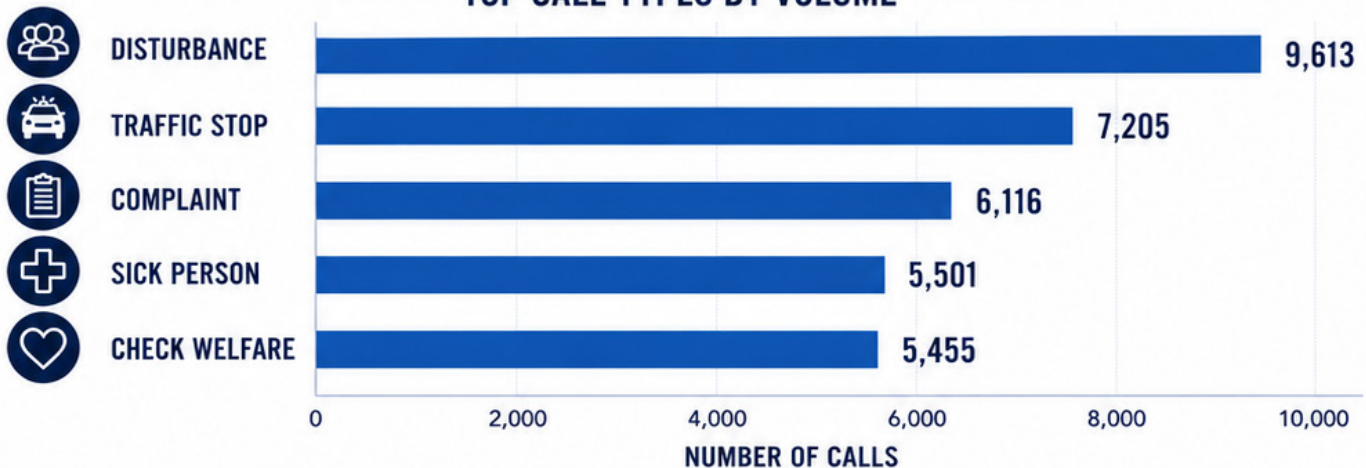
In 2025, the New Bedford Police Department responded to **83,522** calls for service, reflecting consistent demand for police response across the city.



83,522

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE IN 2025

TOP CALL TYPES BY VOLUME



Calls for service represent the full scope of police activity, including proactive enforcement, public safety response, and quality-of-life concerns. Overall call volume remained stable in 2025, with slight increases consistent with prior years.



CONCLUSION:

Overall crime in New Bedford has declined by nearly 50% since 2016, including a 55% reduction in violent crime, reflecting sustained progress in public safety and long-term crime reduction strategies.





ADMIN. SERVICES

The Administrative Services Division supports the day-to-day operations of the New Bedford Police Department by managing internal systems, personnel processes, and operational support functions.

These responsibilities include recruitment, background investigations, hiring, and training for police officers and cadets.

The division also supports key administrative functions such as payroll and personnel coordination, and oversees the maintenance and operation of police department facilities.

In addition, internal systems such as the Management Information Systems (MIS) Unit support department-wide technology infrastructure, including computer, radio, video, and audio systems.

Through coordinated administrative support and ongoing modernization efforts, these functions ensure the department operates efficiently and is well-positioned to support effective public safety operations.



CENTRAL RECORDS BUREAU

The Central Records Bureau is responsible for maintaining and managing official police records and reports. The unit processes requests for police reports and related documentation, ensures compliance with public records laws, and maintains a comprehensive database of records.

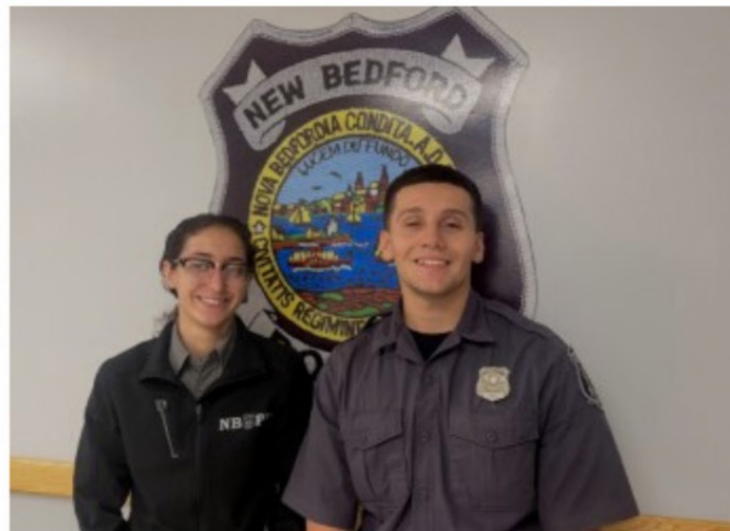
CRB also manages required registrations and verifications, including responsibilities related to sex offender registry compliance. Through accurate record-keeping and efficient service, the bureau supports both internal operations and public access to information.



MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS (MIS) UNIT

The MIS Unit manages and maintains the Department's technology infrastructure, including computer systems, radio communications, body-worn and in-car video systems, and audio systems. The unit provides technical support, system administration, and ongoing upgrades to ensure reliable and secure communication and data management across the Department.

Through innovation and continuous improvement, the MIS Unit enhances operational efficiency and supports effective policing in the community.





BUDGET OVERVIEW



ADOPTED BUDGET

\$27.57M

\$27,573,681



BUDGET REDUCTION

-\$2.04M

-\$2,043,289



FINAL BUDGET

\$25.53M

\$25,530,392

The FY2025 adopted police budget totaled **\$27.6 million**. During the budget process, the Department absorbed more than **\$2 million** in reductions, resulting in a final operating budget of **\$25.5 million**. Despite these reductions, the Department continued investing in officer recruitment, equipment modernization, specialized training, and victim services while maintaining core public safety operations.

FY 2025 BUDGET REDUCTIONS



PERSONNEL SAVINGS

\$2.0 MILLION

- Vacancy savings from unfilled positions



ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

-\$9,783

- Vacant positions savings & Chief of Innovation
- Eliminate use of Chief Innovation Officer



OPERATING EFFICIENCIES

-\$11,918

- Reduce 5% of Supplies line
- 5% across the board



EXPENSE MANAGEMENT

-\$21,588

- Reduced the Other Charges & Expenses line by 7%.
- Savings achieved through insurance premium reductions.

FY25 INVESTMENTS & OUTCOMES



RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

- Continued the **\$5,000** hiring incentive first implemented in FY24
- Expanded Civil Service Exam Preparation Classes
- Hired **31** new officers in FY25, up from **19** in FY24, strengthening recruitment and retention



FLEET & EQUIPMENT MODERNIZATION

- Added six fully outfitted hybrid police cruisers to the front-line fleet using FY24 capital funding
- Equipped all front-line patrol cruisers with updated patrol rifles to ensure officers have the newest equipment for safer operations



VICTIM SERVICES & TRAINING ABBY HONOLD GRANT

- Received the Abby Honold Grant to enhance our response to domestic and dating violence
- Trained sworn officers, civilian staff, and partner agencies to better support victims and vulnerable populations



Despite more than **\$2 million** in budget reductions, the Department continued investing in recruitment, officer safety, fleet modernization, and victim services while maintaining the high level of public safety expected by the New Bedford community.



SPECIALIZED UNITS

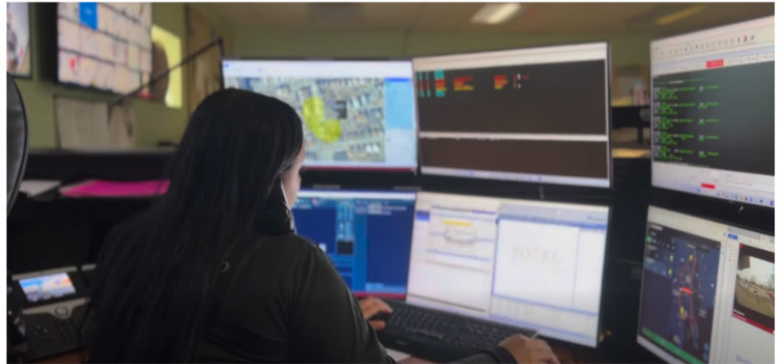


COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

The New Bedford Police Department's Communications Division serves as the critical link between the public and first responders, managing emergency and non-emergency calls for service across the city.

Staffed by over 20 civilian dispatchers, the division is responsible for receiving, prioritizing, and coordinating responses to incidents, while maintaining constant communication with officers, fire personnel, and partner agencies.

Operating in a fast-paced environment, dispatchers handle a high volume of calls and play a vital role in ensuring timely and effective responses to calls for service.



**TOTAL CALLS
RECEIVED:
83,522**



WORKING TOGETHER

The New Bedford Police Department maintains strong partnerships with federal, state, and regional agencies to enhance public safety, share intelligence, and support complex investigations.

These collaborations expand the Department's capabilities in addressing violent crime, narcotics trafficking, fugitive apprehension, and behavioral health-related incidents through coordinated, multi-agency efforts.

FEDERAL PARTNERSHIPS



BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES (ATF) TASK FORCE

NBPD has one officer assigned to the ATF Task Force, supporting investigations involving illegal firearms and violent offenders. Through this partnership, the Department assists in enforcing federal, state, and local laws while contributing to long-term investigations targeting gun-related crime.



DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION (DEA)

One NBPD officer is assigned to the DEA, working alongside federal partners on investigations into drug trafficking and the distribution of controlled substances throughout the region.



UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE (USMS) FUGITIVE TASK FORCE

NBPD has one officer assigned to the U.S. Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force, participating in joint operations to locate and apprehend individuals with active state and federal warrants, with a focus on removing violent offenders from the community.



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI)

For the first time in several years, the New Bedford Police Department has re-established a working partnership with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), strengthening collaboration on complex and high-impact investigations.

As part of this renewed partnership, the department is in the process of assigning three Task Force Officers to FBI-led initiatives, including the Human Trafficking Task Force, the Metro Boston Gang Task Force, and the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF).

In addition, the department is assigning a detective to the FBI's Southeastern Massachusetts Financial Crimes Task Force, specifically supporting its Cryptocurrency Working Group.

These partnerships enhance the Department's ability to address serious and organized criminal activity, expand intelligence-sharing capabilities, and support coordinated efforts across local, state, and federal jurisdictions. By embedding officers within these task forces, NBPD is better positioned to respond to emerging threats and contribute to broader public safety efforts.



CASE HIGHLIGHTS

ATF TASK FORCE

March 2025 - Arrests of Calvin Rosa and Ahkari Jones. A search warrant at Rosa's residence yielded 30 grams of cocaine and a loaded .40-caliber pistol. Jones was found in possession of 56 grams of cocaine. The ATF adopted this case. Rosa pled guilty. Jones is awaiting trial and is currently being held on murder charges for his involvement in the Kimberl Gedeon homicide.

Dec. 2025 - Arrest of Tyrell Sanchez following a suspected narcotics-related shooting near Sixth St. and Spring St. Found in possession of 2 kg of cocaine and a loaded Glock 9mm pistol. The ATF adopted this case, and his trial is pending.

U.S. MARSHALS TASK FORCE

April 2025 - Conducted Project Safe Neighborhood warrant sweeps in the city with assistance from U.S. Marshals, MSP VFAS Unit, and NBPD detectives. Resulted in over 10 warrant arrests.

June 2025 - Arrest of Ahkari Jones wanted for the murder of Kimberl Gedeon. Also assisted in the arrests of several females charged as accessory to this murder.

July 2025 - Arrests of Luis and Brian Santiago; wanted for numerous shootings, firearms violations, B&E's, and stolen motor vehicles. Search warrant yielded large amounts of stolen property, a revolver, and an assortment of ammunition.

DEA TASK FORCE

July 2025 - Executed 12 federal search warrants. Resulted in the arrest of Jose Santiago and Samuel Rodriguez of New Bedford. Seizure resulted in 1 kg of cocaine, 600 grams of fentanyl, 3 vehicles, and \$5,000. Additional search in Fairhaven yielded 112 grams of cocaine and 95 grams of fentanyl. Both individuals are being charged with Title 21 drug charges and are facing 20-year mandatory minimum sentences if convicted.

Dec. 2025 - Executed a federal search warrant for a garage in Fall River. Resulted in the seizure of 5 handguns, 1 AR-15-style rifle, 10 kg of cocaine, 1,000 oxycodone pills, and several hundred rounds of ammunition.



WORKING TOGETHER



STATE PARTNERSHIPS



MASSACHUSETTS STATE POLICE

NBPD works closely with the Massachusetts State Police on major investigations and specialized operations. The State Police also assume primary responsibility for death investigations, working in coordination with NBPD detectives.



BRISTOL COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

The Department partners with the District Attorney's Office on case development, prosecution, and victim support, ensuring cases are effectively prepared and presented within the criminal justice system.



REGIONAL TASK FORCES & COLLABORATION



SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS GANG TASK FORCE (SEMGTF)

As part of its broader collaboration with the FBI and regional partners, the NBPD participates in the SEMGTF to identify, investigate, and dismantle violent criminal enterprises, including those involved in homicides, robberies, and drug trafficking.



BRISTOL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

NBPD collaborates with the Sheriff's Office on initiatives focused on reducing recidivism and improving long-term public safety outcomes, including coordination through correctional facilities and diversion-based programming.



WATERFRONT TASK FORCE

The New Bedford Police Department participates in the Waterfront Task Force, a collaborative initiative focused on maintaining safety and security within the city's waterfront and port areas.

Working alongside local, state, and federal partners, the task force addresses a range of issues including public safety, regulatory compliance, and the protection of critical maritime infrastructure. Through coordinated enforcement and information sharing, the task force supports the safe operation of one of the region's most active waterfronts.



WORKING TOGETHER



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS



CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES (CFS)

The NBPD partners with Child & Family Services to support individuals experiencing behavioral health crises. Through this collaboration, clinicians work alongside officers to assist with de-escalation, conduct on-scene assessments, and connect individuals to immediate services and resources.

This partnership helps ensure that individuals in crisis receive appropriate care while reducing the need for enforcement-based responses.



NORTHSTAR LEARNING CENTERS, INC.

The NBPD also partners with Northstar Learning Centers, Inc. to support individuals experiencing ongoing mental health and substance abuse challenges. Through this collaboration, clinicians provide immediate clinical intervention and connect individuals to appropriate treatment and support services.

This partnership supports diversion from the criminal justice system and promotes long-term, recovery-focused outcomes.





BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



The New Bedford Police Department is committed to addressing the root causes of crime through proactive outreach, partnerships, and public health-focused initiatives. By working alongside community organizations and service providers, the department supports individuals facing substance use, mental health challenges, and other factors that contribute to repeated police interactions.

These efforts are supported by dedicated civilian personnel who play a critical role in coordinating services, conducting outreach, and connecting individuals with appropriate resources. Through this combined approach, the department is able to deliver a coordinated response that spans crisis intervention, diversion, outreach, and long-term support.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CO-RESPONSE PROGRAM

The NBPd participates in a co-response program in partnership with Child & Family Services and Northstar Learning Centers, embedding clinicians alongside officers responding to behavioral health-related calls. This collaborative approach provides real-time clinical support, helping to de-escalate situations, assess needs, and connect individuals to appropriate care and services.

In 2025, the department responded to 3,871 behavioral health-related calls, including those involving Section 12 and Section 35 commitments. Excluding those calls, 3,213 incidents needed response for behavioral health needs, with 1,649 occurring during times when clinicians were available to respond alongside officers.

During this period, 817 individuals were served, resulting in 972 total interventions. Co-response rates increased throughout the year as program coverage and utilization expanded.

Officers also made 338 referrals to the outreach team or directly to clinicians, and an average of approximately 42 officers per month engaged in co-response interventions, demonstrating strong department-wide participation.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IMPACT (2025)



3,871
CALLS



817
INDIVIDUALS SERVED



972
INTERVENTIONS



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTED DIVERSION (LEAD) PROGRAM

The LEAD program is a diversion initiative that connects eligible individuals with community-based case managers and recovery coaches, rather than the traditional criminal justice process.

Through this program, officers refer individuals to LEAD, where civilian providers deliver services focused on substance use, mental health, and long-term stabilization. This collaborative approach allows individuals to receive support and treatment while addressing the underlying factors that contribute to repeated police interactions.



COMMUNITY CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM (CCIT)

The NBPD serves as a co-chair of both the Community Crisis Intervention Team (CCIT) and the Juvenile/Youth CCIT, collaborative networks of law enforcement, health professionals, and community-based agencies working together to support individuals experiencing mental health crises.

Through ongoing coordination with partner agencies across the city, CCIT provides a structured, multi-disciplinary approach to addressing individuals in need of care, safety, and services. Cases primarily involve individuals experiencing mental health challenges, while urgent situations are addressed by a core group best equipped to respond.

This model promotes a compassionate, coordinated response and helps ensure individuals are connected with appropriate services and long-term support.



POST-OVERDOSE OUTREACH

Post-overdose outreach is conducted through a collaborative effort involving harm reduction specialists, community partners, and public safety personnel.

Following an overdose, outreach teams connect individuals and their families with counseling, treatment, and support services to reduce the risk of future incidents and support recovery.

190
NON-FATAL
OVERDOSES

19
FATAL
OVERDOSES

2025 recorded the lowest number of fatal and non-fatal overdoses in the department's nine-year reporting period.





BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



STREET OUTREACH

The department supports local outreach organizations that engage individuals in areas experiencing high levels of substance use and homelessness. Through these partnerships, individuals are connected with resources such as housing support, food access, Narcan, and other harm reduction services.



OPIOID TASK FORCE

The Opioid Task Force is a collaborative effort focused on addressing opioid misuse and overdose within the Greater New Bedford community. The task force works to expand and leverage existing resources, strengthen coordination among partner agencies, and improve communication to deliver a more effective, unified response.



HARM REDUCTION SUBCOMMITTEE

The Harm Reduction Subcommittee focuses on increasing the availability, accessibility, and awareness of services for individuals who use opioids. This includes engaging individuals, particularly those who have experienced non-fatal overdoses, as partners in reducing the harmful effects of substance use and connecting them with support and resources.



HOMELESS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE RESPONSE TEAM (HEART)

The HEART team is a city-led initiative that brings together public safety, health services, and community partners to support individuals experiencing homelessness. The team conducts outreach to encampments, providing immediate assistance such as food, clothing, and basic necessities, while also offering connections to shelter and long-term support services.



City of New Bedford's Homeless
HEART
Homeless Emergency
Assistance Response Team





COMMUNITY EVENTS

Throughout the year, the NBPD supports and participates in a wide range of community events, public safety operations, and city-wide initiatives. These events provide opportunities to engage with residents, ensure public safety during large gatherings, and strengthen relationships within the community.



NEW BEDFORD HALF MARATHON

The NBPD supports the annual New Bedford Half Marathon, one of the city's largest events, drawing more than 1,500 runners and thousands of spectators each year.

In 2025, nearly 150 police officers and dispatchers participated in the operation, assisting with street closures, traffic detours, and course security throughout the race route.

The operation was coordinated by Station 2 command staff, the assigned detail officer, and the Traffic Division, ensuring a safe and well-organized event for participants and spectators.



FEAST OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

The NBPD provides extensive public safety support for the annual Feast of the Blessed Sacrament, one of the largest cultural events in the region, held each year during the first week of August. Drawing tens of thousands of attendees to the city's North End, this multi-day event requires significant planning and coordination across the department and the City.

More than 200 officers participate over the four-day event, with sergeants, lieutenants, and captains working alongside patrol officers, the Traffic Division, specialized units, and dispatch personnel. Officers are assigned to traffic control, crowd management, and general event security, helping to ensure a safe and well-managed environment for all attendees.





COMMUNITY EVENTS



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

The NBDP participates in National Night Out, an annual community event focused on strengthening relationships between law enforcement and the neighborhoods we serve. Officers and community partners engage with residents in a positive setting, helping to build trust, answer questions, and share information about available resources and services.



TRUNK OR TREAT

The New Bedford Police Department hosts its annual Trunk or Treat event at the Public Safety Complex in partnership with the New Bedford Fire Department. Since its launch in 2021, the event has provided a safe and welcoming environment for families to celebrate Halloween, and continues to grow each year.

Officers, firefighters, and staff decorate vehicles and distribute candy to children, creating an opportunity for positive interaction and engagement with the community. The event brings together families, first responders, and community members in a fun and family-friendly setting.

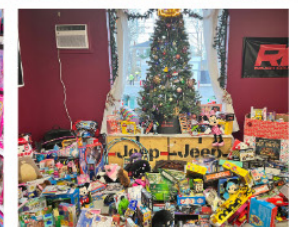


CHRISTMAS AT THE NBDP

The NBDP participates in several community-focused initiatives during the holiday season aimed at supporting local families and spreading holiday cheer.

These efforts include Presents With Police at Target, where officers partner with other local law enforcement agencies to purchase gifts for children and assist them with holiday shopping, and "Fill-A-Bus" at Walmart, which helps collect donations for families in need. The Department also hosts its annual Christmas Bus giveaway, loading a school bus with gifts and traveling to neighborhoods throughout the city to distribute presents directly to children.

In addition, the department collects toy donations at its headquarters, which are distributed to families in need during the week of Christmas. In recent years, the Department has also partnered with Our Lady of Guadalupe to host a Christmas breakfast, where donated food and gifts are provided to children and families of the parish. These initiatives reflect the Department's ongoing commitment to community engagement and supporting those in need during the holiday season.





IN MEMORIAM

The New Bedford Police Department proudly honors the members of our family who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to others. Their courage, dedication, and commitment to protecting our community continue to inspire every officer who wears the badge. Though they are no longer with us, their legacy lives on through the values they embodied and the lives they touched.



**SERGEANT
MICHAEL "MIKE" CASSIDY**

End of Watch: Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Sergeant Mike Cassidy honorably served his country as a United States Marine during Operation Desert Storm before joining the New Bedford Police Department in 1994. Throughout his distinguished career, he served in Uniform Patrol, Narcotics, Criminal Investigations, and the Firearms Unit. He received New Bedford Police Life Saving Awards in 2006 and 2018 and earned numerous military and law enforcement commendations from the City of New Bedford, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the United States Senate and Congress, and the American Red Cross. Sergeant Cassidy passed away after a courageous battle with COVID-19, leaving behind a legacy of service, leadership, and selflessness.



**OFFICER
JOSEPH CAMARA**

End of Watch: September 1, 2003

Officer Joseph Camara proudly served both the New Bedford Police Department and the United States Army National Guard. Assigned to the 115th Military Police Company during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Staff Sergeant Camara was killed in action south of Baghdad when his military vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device. His sacrifice stands as a testament to his extraordinary commitment to serving both his community and his country.



**PATROLMAN
JAMES G. ENGLAND**

End of Watch: September 14, 1955

Patrolman James G. England was fatally wounded while responding to assist a citizen at the Veterans Administration Medical Center on Elm Street. During the encounter, the individual seized Patrolman England's service weapon, and in the ensuing struggle, he was shot. He later succumbed to his injuries at St. Luke's Hospital. Patrolman England faithfully served the New Bedford Police Department for eight years, and his dedication and sacrifice remain a lasting part of the department's history.



IN CONCLUSION

The New Bedford Police Department remains committed to enhancing public safety, strengthening community partnerships, and continuing to build trust through transparency and accountability.

Through a combination of proactive enforcement, data-driven strategies, and collaborative efforts with local, state, and federal partners, the Department continues to adapt to the evolving needs of the community.

As we move forward, we remain focused on improving outcomes, supporting those in need, and ensuring the safety and well-being of all who live and work in New Bedford.

We thank our officers, civilian staff, and community partners for their continued dedication and support.

