

NEW BEDFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

(PR - 08 - 25)

For Immediate Release

June 20, 2008

Lieutenant Jeffrey P. Silva

See Also: 2008-10730

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"FLEET OF FOOT" OFFICER CATCHES COPPER THIEF IN THE ACT

New Bedford, Massachusetts – "Fleet of foot" New Bedford Police Officer Edson Santos caught 35 year-old Wilfredo ALVARAZ-NIEVES of New Bedford after a brief foot chase when officers responded to a 911 call about someone breaking into a vacant home today just after 11:00 AM. An alert neighbor called 911 to report the crime and Officer Santos was able to respond almost immediately while the thief was still inside the house along with Officers Shawn Robert, Damien Vasconcellos and Bryan Dosanjos.

The New Bedford Police Department received a 911 call about two men that had allegedly broken into a vacant home at the intersection of County and Linden Streets in the Northwest section of the City. As the officers converged from different areas, Officer Santos saw a man later identified as Wilfredo ALVARAZ-NIEVES burst out of the home and take off at a sprint pace upon seeing the police arrive. Officer Santos gave chase and within a very short distance caught up to the suspect and took him into custody with the assistance of Officers Robert and Dosanjos and Vasconcellos. There was some information provided that indicated that ALVARAZ-NIEVES may have had an accomplice, however no accomplice was found by the arriving officers.

Wilfredo ALVARAZ-NIEVES is well known to the New Bedford Police Department and has been arrested in the past for crimes of this nature. Once the officers secured ALVARAZ-NIEVES in a patrol car, they were able to examine the home more closely and observed most of the copper from the home's heating system cut into segments, torn from the wall and placed by the door ready to be carried away. The theft of copper and other items containing various metals has reached almost epidemic levels nationwide because of the high premium currently being paid for them.

ALVARAZ-NIEVES was charged by Officer Damien Vasconcellos with: (1) Breaking and entering in the daytime with intent to commit a felony; (2) Possession of burglarious tools; (3) Larceny from a building; (4) Damage to property; (5) Disturbing the peace, and; (6) Resisting arrest.

This arrest demonstrates that the community is an essential partner in the New Bedford Police Department's mission of protecting our community.

Anyone with information about any crime is urged to contact the New Bedford Police Department either by calling 911 when it is an emergency or by leaving a tip. To leave an anonymous tip, citizens can either logon to our website at www.newbedfordpd.com and click on **POLICE TIP LINE** or call the Tip Line Directly at 508.961.4584. All information can remain completely anonymous.



New Bedford Police

Media Report

PERSONS FILE Number: **245182**

Name: **ALVARAZ-NIEVES, WILFREDO**



Photo Date: 6/20/2008

Race: WHITE
DOB: 08/29/1972
Age: 35
SSN: 082-51-8054
Sex: MALE
Eyes: BROWN
Hair: BROWN
Height: 74 INCHES
Weight: 210 LBS



Last known Address: 117 CLARK ST

NEW BEDFORD MA 02746

Parole or Probation?:

