

NEW BEDFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



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

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For Immediate Release

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Public Information Officer**

See Also: 2008-3680

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TWO DEAD AND TWO INJURED AFTER A DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE TURNS INTO MURDER - SUICIDE

New Bedford, Massachusetts – Two people are dead and two others were injured after a vicious domestic disturbance turned into a murder – suicide tonight at 148 Tinkham Street on the 3rd floor just after 5:15 PM.

The New Bedford Police 911 Communications Center received a call that there was some type of problem at this address and that the police were needed however it was very difficult to understand what the nature and extent of the problem was from the phone call because of the screaming in the background. Upon arrival, officers encountered a very bloody crime scene on the sidewalk in front of the house as well as on the stairs and in the hallways inside. Officers then encountered a female stabbing victim who had fled the house along with her male companion (both in their late twenties) who had been bitten and they directed the officers to the third floor apartment.

Upon entering the apartment, officers found a (43) year old male, later determined to be the attacker, with multiple stab wounds to his chest. These wounds were later determined to be self inflicted and were fatal. Officers also found a (36) year old female, later determined to be the estranged companion of the attacker, who had been stabbed twice – once in the chest and once in the ribcage area. Although this victim was alive when the officers arrived, her wounds were mortal and she died despite the best efforts of the medical personnel at St. Luke's Hospital in New Bedford.

Officers later determined that the male attacker had been estranged from his former companion for approximately one month and had moved out of the apartment. His former companion lived in the one of the apartment's three bedrooms, a male and female couple lived in the second bedroom with their four-year old son and a single male lived in the third bedroom. The attacker apparently entered the apartment surreptitiously through the back door with a key that he still had and hid in his former companion's bedroom armed with a common steak knife. The 36 year old female then came home from work and entered her room where she was surprised by her former companion who, after a brief argument, attacked and stabbed her. The couple in the adjacent bedroom came to this woman's defense when they heard the argument, but when they tried to intervene, the attacker stabbed his former companion twice, stabbed the intervening female (8) times and bit her male companion. The remaining male roommate also came to assist, and with the help of his other roommates was able to disarm the attacker. By that time however, the attacker had already mortally wounded his former companion; seriously wounded another female; bit that female's male companion and fatally wounded himself. The (4) year old boy, although present for the attack, was not physically harmed.

All victims, except the male that was bitten, were transported to St. Luke's Hospital in New Bedford where two were pronounced dead and one was treated and transported to Beth Israel Hospital in Boston. Her injuries, although very serious are not life threatening and she is expected to recover. The Department of Social Services was notified to assist with counseling and ancillary social issues for the families and the investigation is continuing by the New Bedford Police Department Major Crimes Detectives, the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit assigned to Bristol County District Attorney Sam Sutters' Office as well as detectives from the Crime Scene Services and Identification Units of both the New Bedford and Massachusetts State Police.

No identifications or photographs of the victims will be released until notifications to their families can either be made or ruled out as being possible. Despite numerous media requests, a copy of the 911 call will not be released by the New Bedford Police Department out of respect to the survivors; the victims' families; and the memories of the deceased due to the graphic content that can heard in the call.

No further official comment is likely to follow until late Monday morning, March 3, 2008, however if significant updates become available they will be released by this office. It is reminded ONCE AGAIN, as there were inappropriate media calls to the investigative and communications divisions regarding this case this evening, that the Public Information Officer is the SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT for media inquiries. If no further update is left on an outgoing voice message at **508.979.1688**; on the website under **PRESS RELEASES** at www.newbedfordpd.com; or via email that means that there is no further comment that will be given nor should any be sought. Your anticipated cooperation to this end is appreciated.

We were just informed that the med-flight was diverted from Beth Israel Hospital in Boston to Rhode Island Hospital.

Updates on the female can be checked with RI Hospital either upon your independent determination of her name or release of it from the undersigned.