

# NEW BEDFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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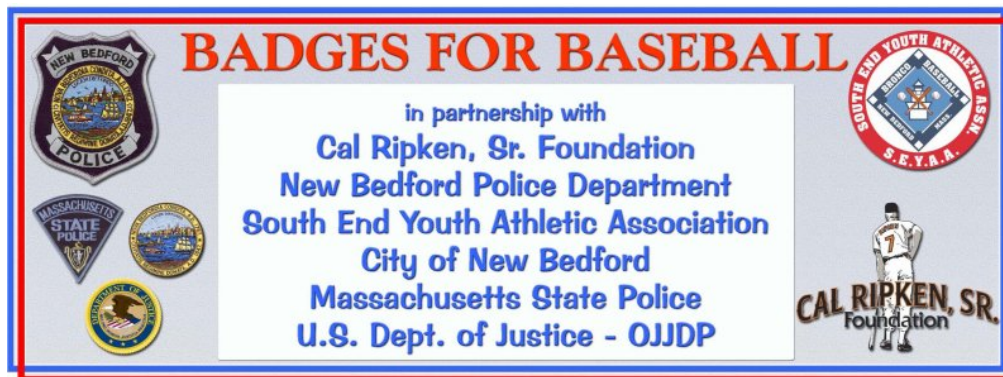
For Immediate Release

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See Also: N/A

### GRADUATION & GAME FOR “BADGES FOR BASEBALL” PROGRAM



**New Bedford, Massachusetts** – This Saturday, April 26, 2008, the graduation ceremony for the “Badges for Baseball” campaign, followed by a 10-Team tournament featuring the “cops” vs. “kids” will take place at the Keith Junior High School at 12:30 PM in New Bedford.

“Badges for Baseball” is a **volunteer** program in partnership with the: Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation; New Bedford Police Department (NBPD); South End Youth Athletic Association (SEYAA); City of New Bedford; Massachusetts State Police; and; US Department of Justice – Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (USDOJ-OJJDP). The program is designed to help youths make healthy and productive decisions and is taught from curriculum supplied by the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation based on their “Healthy Choices – Healthy Children” program.

All classroom instructors from the program are New Bedford Police Officers, or in one case, a former New Bedford Police Officer who is now a Massachusetts State Trooper. The law enforcement coordinator who spearheaded this initiative and who also serves as an instructor is New Bedford Police Captain Joseph Cordeiro, Commander of the Central District Patrol Station (Station 1) located in Downtown New Bedford.

The (7) week program began in March and consisted of a (1) hour classroom session followed by a fun-filled, 30-minute “quick ball” session designed to reinforce the principles taught in the classroom.

Awards will be presented to various participants in the program and a symbolic check will be presented, highlighting the over \$28,000.00 given to the South End Youth Athletic Association from monies obtained from

the federal government (USDOJ–OJJDP) as well as matching state funds secured through the efforts of Massachusetts State Representative Antonio F.D. Cabral.

The mentors that **volunteered** their time are: Captain Joseph Cordeiro; Detective John Ribeiro; Detective Chris Andrade; Detective Al Silva; Detective Allann Fonseca; Officer Charlie Perry; Officer Victor Ramos; Officer Dave Conceicao; Officer Scott Tremblay; Officer Leo Ewasko (all from the NBPD); and Massachusetts State Trooper Michael Turgeon (*formerly* from the NBPD); Ken Sylvia (Vice President of the SEYAA); Jennifer Carling (SEYAA Executive Board Member); and Tim Landry (SEYAA Executive Board Member).

The public and media are **encouraged** to attend this event and several area dignitaries and City Officials are expected to attend including New Bedford Mayor Scott W. Lang and Massachusetts State Representative Antonio F.D. Cabral.