

# NEW BEDFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



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P R E S S     R E L E A S E

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Lieutenant Jeffrey P. Silva

See Also: N/A

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## 21 ARRESTS MADE IN JOINT LOCAL, STATE & FEDERAL OPERATION

**New Bedford, Massachusetts** – This morning before dawn, law enforcement officials from the New Bedford Police Department, the Massachusetts State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation along with the assistance of several other law enforcement agencies conducted an arrest sweep of twenty-one defendants affiliated with the Montes Park Gang in New Bedford. Of the sixteen individuals that were charged federally, ten were arrested and only one, Corey Almeida, remains a fugitive. The remaining five federal targets were already in custody prior to the operation. Six other defendants were arrested on state charges, the most serious of which (the arrest of Austin Grupee) involved the illegal possession of three loaded firearms and approximately 250 grams of cocaine.

"I want to commend the federal, state and city law enforcement officials who worked collaboratively on the investigation and the subsequent arrests conducted in New Bedford this morning. I am confident that the City of New Bedford is safer after the success of this operation," said New Bedford Mayor Scott W. Lang.

The individuals targeted and arrested in this operation represent some of the most dangerous criminals that were on the streets of the City of New Bedford who, for years, taunted the police, tip-toed through the state court system and terrorized the community. When today's operation was concluded, five illegal firearms, over a quarter kilogram of cocaine and (21) very dangerous criminals were taken off the streets of the City through the collaborative efforts of local, state and federal law enforcement officials.

New Bedford Police Chief Ron Teachman, who played an integral role in today's operation said, "The subjects of this investigation have been connected to much of the violent crime in our city recently, and we anticipate the positive impact these arrests will have on the safety and security of our neighborhoods going forward."

All of the defendants arrested were arraigned in either the United States District Court in Boston on federal charges or New Bedford 3<sup>rd</sup> District Court on state charges and were held without bail. Anyone with any information about the one remaining fugitive, COREY ALMEIDA, is asked their local or state law enforcement agency or the nearest FBI office. Anonymous tips can be given to the New Bedford Police Department by calling the TIP LINE at 508.961.4584, sending an email or text message to [TIP@NEWBEDFORD-MA.GOV](mailto:TIP@NEWBEDFORD-MA.GOV) or logging onto the New Bedford Police website at [WWW.NEWBEDFORDPD.COM](http://WWW.NEWBEDFORDPD.COM)