

NEW BEDFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

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PAROLED MURDER FUGITIVE CAPTURED & CHARGED

(TIMELINE FROM INITIAL INCIDENT TO CURRENT STATUS)

On July 22, 2007, a violent domestic disturbance on Harwich Street in New Bedford, MA occurred. When the victim tried to call the police, Charles CHAPLES (DOB: 11/19/1960) chased and tackled his girlfriend and wrestled the telephone away from her preventing her from calling the police. When CHAPLES tackled her, he seriously injured her collarbone. It was later determined when the victim went to the emergency room that CHAPLES had broken her collarbone so badly that she required surgery. CHAPLES then took the victim's ATM card and withdraw almost \$1200.00 from her account without her knowledge or permission. Based on her knowledge of CHAPLES background, his threats, his physical abuse and even his pleas not to call the police because he knew he would go back to jail [*CHAPLES was out on parole after serving several years in prison after he was convicted for 2nd degree murder in 1983*], the victim never called the police.

On September 5, 2007, New Bedford Police Detective Alberto Silva was informed of the above domestic incident and immediately began working with members of the New Bedford Police Department Family Services Unit, Massachusetts State Parole officers as well as members of the Massachusetts State Police Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section (VFAS). The law enforcement officers then began searching known locations for CHAPLES and learned that he was in Mattapoisett, MA making a delivery for his job at a Mattapoisett business.

While still enroute to this location, CHAPLES became aware of the fact that law enforcement officials were seeking him out so he fled into the nearby Mattapoisett woods by the Bay Club Golf Course. At that time an extensive multi-jurisdictional effort was initiated to establish a perimeter to contain CHAPLES, and dozens of law enforcement officials utilizing everything from police K9 tracking dogs to helicopters with infrared cameras combed the area for CHAPLES. CHAPLES was seen on more than one occasion, however due to the rugged, dense terrain, law enforcement officials were unable to locate him although they remained confident that he was confined to a small radius within their search perimeter.

At approximately 6:30 A.M. an **off duty** Massachusetts State Trooper **on his way to a paid detail**, Trooper Edward Lavoie, overheard a radio transmission by the Marion, MA Police Department that a suspicious male had been seen by a resident walking on Route 105 in Marion, MA (*an abutting community to Mattapoisett*). As a result, the very alert Trooper Lavoie responded to the area, spoke to a nearby witness, and proceeded around the corner where he saw CHAPLES, just as described by the witness. Trooper Lavoie instantly recognized him from his photograph that he had pulled up on his police cruiser's laptop computer. Trooper Lavoie (a former local police officer and detective with the Central Falls Police Department) immediately took CHAPLES into custody without incident and transported him to the Massachusetts State Police Barracks in Bourne, MA for preliminary processing then immediately transported CHAPLES to New Bedford Police Headquarters where he was booked on the following charges which triggered the patrol violation for which he was sought:

- 1) Assault & Battery Upon A Household Member (misdemeanor)
- 2) Assault & Battery Resulting In Serious Bodily Injury (felony)
- 3) Intimidation Of A Witness (felony)
- 4) Larceny By Embezzlement exceeding \$250.00 (felony)

CHAPLES was processed at New Bedford Police Headquarters and was then immediately taken to the Massachusetts State Correctional Institution at Concord where he is currently incarcerated for violating the terms of his parole as a result of the above charges. CHAPLES will be brought to the New Bedford District Court as early as the upcoming week to be arraigned on the above charges.

The New Bedford Police Department would like to thank and commend all of the agencies and their officers that assisted with this investigation including, but not limited to the:

- 1) Massachusetts State Police
- 2) Massachusetts State Parole
- 3) Massachusetts Department of Corrections
- 4) Mattapoisett Police Department
- 5) Marion Police Department
- 6) Plymouth County Sheriff's Department

Special recognition should be given to Detective Alberto Silva and all the members of the New Bedford Police Department Family Services Unit, the Massachusetts State Police Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section and Massachusetts State Trooper Edward Lavoie whose alertness, dedication to public safety and commitment to the Commonwealth – even when off duty and on the way to a paid detail, brought a dangerous criminal to justice. His actions and the actions of all those involved exemplify what can happen when law enforcement agencies and the community work together.