

# NEW BEDFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

For Immediate Release

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### STREET SAVVY OFFICERS FOLLOW HUNCH AND RECOVER GUNS FROM ATTIC

**New Bedford, Massachusetts** – (3) rifles and (1) 9 millimeter semi-automatic handgun were recovered from the attic of 20 Viall Street in the south sector of New Bedford today after a street savvy officer followed his instincts and some information from an informant today while on patrol.

Officer Raul Espinal (3 year veteran) along with Officer Carlos Depina (14 year veteran) were on patrol when Officer Espinal received some information from a citizen who felt comfortable speaking with him. The citizen relayed that there were several guns in the attic of a certain house in the area but did not know the address. Armed with the citizen's tips Officer Espinal shared information with Officer Depina based on their knowledge of the City, recent crimes and the neighborhood and determined that the house in question was 20 Viall Street.

Officers Espinal and Depina proceeded to 20 Viall Street and after being let into the house, they observed a ladder leading to the attic from the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor hallway that was accessible to all tenants in the building. When Officer Espinal climbed the ladder, he saw a holster for a pistol, a tee shirt and a plastic bag. Upon grabbing the shirt and the bag, he immediately recognized that there were rifles wrapped in the bag and a pistol in the shirt. Upon closer examination it was determined that the bag contained (3) rifles and (1) 9 millimeter semi-automatic handgun loaded with (9) rounds of ammunition.

Presently (1) of the rifles has already been identified as stolen from a reported housebreak in New Bedford in 1985. The New Bedford Police Detective Division is actively investigating this case working in conjunction with the Massachusetts State Police, District Attorney Sam Sutter's Office and federal law enforcement officials to trace the origin of the remaining weapons and determine what if any connection they may have to any crimes.

Anyone with any information regarding this case is urged to contact the New Bedford Police Detective Division at 508.991.6320 or the ANONYMOUS VIOLENT CRIME TIP LINE at 508.961.4584. **ALL** calls are completely and totally anonymous.