



City of New Bedford  
Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

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## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### **New Bedford Ready to Host 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Half Marathon**

*Race Begins at 11:00 a.m. Sharp on Sunday, March 16, 2014*

**New Bedford, Massachusetts-** On Sunday, March 16, 2014, thousands of runners will participate in the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual New Bedford Half Marathon. The race is hosted by the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, a New Bedford based fraternal organization, and the City of New Bedford. The course is a challenging one that includes two major hills, waterfront views, and will be lined with hundreds of volunteers and cheering fans.

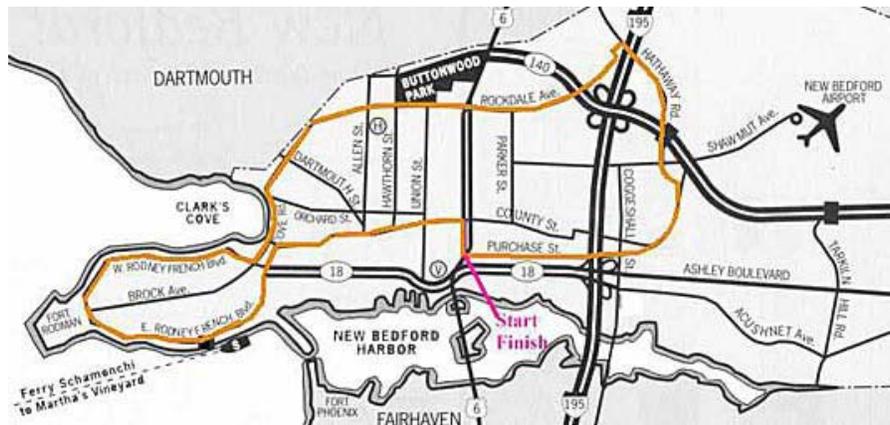
Organizers have taken great care to ensure that the New Bedford Half Marathon continues to maintain its reputation as one of the safest races in New England. More than 100 New Bedford police officers will patrol the course and ambulances staff by New Bedford Emergency Medical Services employees will be stationed throughout the city. The New Bedford Police Department has asked runners and spectators not to bring bags to the course as backpacks, suitcases and rolling bags will not be permitted near the start/finish area. The New Bedford Police Department is also asking spectators and runners alike to report any suspicious activity to one of the many police officers available throughout the course leading up to, during, and after the race.

In addition, the race course is closed to vehicular traffic and residents are advised to plan ahead as traffic will be restricted from approximately 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. New Bedford Police encourage residents who live in the south end of the city, especially those who live on the peninsula, to plan to leave before 10:30 a.m. and return after 1:30 p.m. Residents are encouraged to avoid Route 18 southbound from Union Street south while the race is underway.

The New Bedford Police Department has identified two alternative routes for those who wish to gain access inside the course perimeter. Individuals looking to visit a patient

at St. Luke's Hospital or who need access to the inner perimeter for other reasons should consider the following routes:

1. Rt. 195 East bound to Penniman Street exit to County to Parker to Cottage St.
2. Rt. 195 Westbound to Downtown Exit to Rt. 18 Southbound to Rt. 6 exit (Downtown) to Mill Street to Cottage Street.



*Map of New Bedford Half Marathon Course*

Mayor Jon Mitchell and the City of New Bedford Harbor Development Commission will offer complimentary parking and shuttle service for all runners from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Free parking will be available at the Whale's Tooth Parking Lot (Martha's Vineyard Fast Ferry Parking, 532 Acushnet Avenue– [Map](#)) and the YMCA (where number pick-up and the Post Race Meal will take place– [Map](#)).

The entire New Bedford community is involved in welcoming the runners and their friends and families. Visitors will have plenty to do and see in New Bedford's downtown business district throughout the day.

Downtown New Bedford Inc., has organized an opportunity for runners and fans to win great prizes from Downtown merchants including restaurants, shops, museums and galleries. Entry forms are available at participating businesses throughout downtown. Look for the large posters located strategically throughout downtown and visit any one, or all of the participating merchants!

For more information on the race and race day activities please visit: [www.newbedfordhalfmarathon.com](http://www.newbedfordhalfmarathon.com)

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