



City of New Bedford
Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

City of New Bedford
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P R E S S R E L E A S E

Mayor Mitchell Announces Selection of New Police Chief and Deputy Chief

New Bedford, Massachusetts- At a press conference held in City Hall this morning, Mayor Jon Mitchell announced that he has selected New Bedford Police Captain Joseph Cordeiro to serve as the next New Bedford Chief of Police. Cordeiro is currently the Uniform District One Division Commander for the New Bedford Police Department at the Downtown Station and has served as a New Bedford police officer for thirty years.

Mayor Mitchell pointed to Cordeiro's demonstrated leadership abilities, broad experience within the department as well as his strong ties with the New Bedford community as qualities that will help make him an effective police chief.

"New Bedford deserves a police chief who has the leadership and technical skills that will command the respect of the department and the community alike, and will enable our officers to keep our neighborhoods safe. I believe Joe Cordeiro is well prepared to step into the position and to help make our department one of the leading police departments in the country," said Mayor Jon Mitchell

Cordeiro's thirty years of experience within the New Bedford Police Department have included a wide range of responsibilities. He has demonstrated the ability to lead a large contingent of fellow police officers, developed positive working relationships with other state and federal law enforcement agencies, respond effectively to crisis situations and maintained positive relationships with the community.

Cordeiro's experience with the department has included serving as commander of several units including Background Investigations, Juvenile, Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Organized Crime and Narcotics, Traffic, Animal Control as well as serving as the Commander of the Downtown District Station.

Cordeiro holds a Bachelor's degree in Law Enforcement and a Master's degree in Criminal Justice, both from Western New England University. He has graduated from Boston

University's Senior Management Institute for Police Program and the New England Institute for Law Enforcement Management at Babson College.

Cordeiro is also fluent in the Portuguese language.

Throughout his career, Cordeiro has been actively engaged in the community through his work as a New Bedford Police Officer and through his participation in a number of area organizations including serving as a current member of the board of New Bedford Community Connections Coalition, Greater New Bedford Women's Center, South Coast Mental Health Provider's Network Committee and Greater New Bedford Vocational High School Legal & Protective Services Advisory Board. Cordeiro has also previously served as Chair of the City of New Bedford Human Relations Commission, and served as a member of the Juvenile Court Diversionary Team, Teen Dating Violence Committee, Greater New Bedford Domestic Violence Multi-Disciplinary Task Force, Greater New Bedford Community Health Network Association Domestic Violence Committee, Juvenile Drug County Advisory Committee and Youth Court Advisory Board, among other community service organizations.

The Chief of Police is responsible for the overall planning, administration and operation of the New Bedford Police Department. The Chief is appointed by and reports to the Mayor of the City of New Bedford.

Based on Cordeiro's recommendation, Mayor Mitchell also announced the appointment of Captain Paul J. Oliveira as Deputy Chief of Police. Captain Oliveira has served as a member of New Bedford Police for nearly 25 years. Oliveira began as a uniform patrol officer, and then transferred to the Narcotics Division until his promotion to Sergeant in 2000. Oliveira served as a Sergeant in Uniform Patrol, Detective Division and Narcotics Division. He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in 2007 and worked as Commander of the Professional Standards Division and as Commander of the Narcotics Division. Currently, Oliveira holds the rank of Captain and is serving in the Department's Professional Standards Division.

Oliveira holds a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and a Master's degree in Criminal Justice. He has also graduated from Boston University's Senior Management Institute for Police Program.

In mid-February, Mayor Jon Mitchell laid out his plans to conduct an internal search for the City's next Chief of Police. Police officers with the New Bedford Police Department who had attained the rank of Captain or Lieutenant were eligible to apply for the position of Chief.

Mayor Mitchell assembled a committee to interview the candidates and ultimately recommend to him candidates who would make an excellent Chief of Police. The screening committee members brought a breadth of perspective and the experience to recognize leadership ability.

"I want to publicly thank the members of the screening committee— individuals with diverse perspectives and familiarity with the department that helped me make the make this important decision," New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell.

The New Bedford Police Chief Screening Committee Members included:

- Loretta Bourque, Founding Member of the Cove Street Neighborhood Association

- Edmund F. Craig, Jr., Commissioner of the New Bedford Licensing Board and Retired New Bedford Police Lieutenant
- David Donahue, Retired Special Agent for the FBI
- Brian K. Gomes, At- Large City Councilor
- Kevin Hegarty, Retired New Bedford Police Deputy Chief
- David Lizotte, Acting New Bedford Police Chief
- Maria Rosario, Executive Director of Northstar Learning Centers
- Dr. Bruce Rose, President of the New Bedford Chapter of the NAACP

The position had been vacant since the untimely death of Chief David A. Provencher in December of 2015. Chief Provencher had served as Chief since 2011. Deputy Chief David Lizotte, who has been serving as Acting Chief of Police in the interim, has previously announced his plans to retire effective at the end of May.

“I am grateful for Acting Chief Lizotte’s steady leadership over the past several months. Chief Lizotte provided needed stability during a difficult period for the department, and has positioned the department for a successful transition under Chief Cordeiro,” said Mayor Mitchell.

The Mayor will appoint Chief Cordeiro and Deputy Chief Oliveira to their new positions in an acting capacity until a formal swearing-in ceremony is held. Although the appointment is not subject to confirmation by the City Council, Mayor Mitchell will ask Chief Cordeiro to present his vision for the department before the Council and will ask the Council endorse his and Oliveira’s appointments.

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