



City of New Bedford  
Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

City of New Bedford  
Office of the Mayor  
Contact: Elizabeth Treadup Pio  
(508) 979-1410  
[etreadup@newbedford-ma.gov](mailto:etreadup@newbedford-ma.gov)

Date: November 10, 2015  
For Immediate Release

## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### **Independent Consultant Seeking Input on City's Fire/EMS Study**

*FACETS Group Chosen by Selection Committee Last Year  
Now Ready To Present Draft Findings and Gather Public Input*

**New Bedford, Massachusetts** –FACETS, Inc., a nationally-recognized independent public safety consulting firm selected in 2014 by a group of local stakeholders will be seeking public input on its draft assessment of the City of New Bedford's fire and emergency medical services.

On Thursday, November 19, 2015 at 6:00 PM at the Fort Taber Community Center, FACETS staff will present the findings of their year-long analysis and gather public comment.

The study was commissioned in the fall of last year in response to several concerns, including:

- rapidly rising public safety personnel costs (including pensions and health insurance),
- the changing nature of firefighting given the dramatic drop in the incidence of fires over the last forty years,
- large deferred maintenance capital needs at the Fire and EMS Departments,
- the need for a long-term planning to address anticipated reductions in federal SAFER grant support for the Fire Department, and
- an opportunity for greater efficiencies and more effective coordination among public safety departments.

FACETS comprehensive analysis included the following:

- a complete risk assessment,
- a standard of cover/response-time analysis,
- a financial sustainability analysis,
- an examination of internal operations, staff, management resources, policies, and procedures,
- an analysis of the structure/delivery of services (including dispatch operations), and
- an analysis of the capital facilities, equipment, and vehicles required to provide services.

FACETS was assisted in its analysis by a special committee composed of members of the City Council, department heads, labor union leaders, and the City's financial management team headed by CFO Ari Sky.

The final FACETS report will provide specific recommendations for the provision of fire and EMS services going forward, including recommendations to manage the impact of declining federal SAFER grant funding on city finances, as well as the identification of metrics that can be used to determine effectiveness going forward.

Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) is a federal grant program created to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations to help them increase the number of trained, "front line" firefighters available in their communities.

New Bedford's Fire and Emergency Medical Services departments function as separate organizational units, with 220 firefighters and 30 paramedics respectively. There are seven fire stations throughout the city and four front line ambulances. The departments respond to about 21,000 calls for service each year.

###