



*Building a better, stronger New Bedford*

www.CabralForMayor.com • 230 Union Street, New Bedford, MA 02740 • contact@cabralformayor.com • (508) 997-1484

## Ensuring a Safe New Bedford

Every citizen has the right to safe streets and a safe neighborhood. In addition, businesses considering bringing jobs to New Bedford demand the safety of their future employees and facilities. As a legislator, I worked to give our district attorney and law enforcement officers the tools they need to keep our residents safe. I defended our children by sponsoring and passing anti-bullying legislation for every school. I wrote and passed legislation expanding the list of mandated reporters of child abuse, and introduced legislation that would require all sex offenders to register with law enforcement before being released onto our streets. And I wrote and passed a new law that keeps dangerous gun offenders off New Bedford streets.

Much work remains in our effort to make New Bedford a safer place to live and work, and I am committed to doing whatever it takes to remove criminals and empower residents. We will not tolerate gun, drug, or gang violence in our city, and residents will see a new approach to public safety from day one.

As your Mayor, I will work to improve public safety by...

### **Re-establishing community policing in our neighborhoods.**

**“I will insist on one new strategy: reestablishing community policing.”**

As Mayor, I will ask our police chief to submit a top-to-bottom evaluation of our police department structure to ensure maximum effectiveness. I want to know everything that can be done with the resources available, and I want a system of accountability for performance and results. If resources can be better utilized in different aspects of policing, or if officers can be better deployed in different roles, I want to know on day one.

I will insist on one new strategy: reestablishing community policing. Safe neighborhoods begin with a strong police presence, and I will work with our police chief to set up more foot patrols throughout the city. Officers assigned to this program will engage community groups to make real and measurable positive change within their respective neighborhoods, and we will establish a system of well-defined goals and expectations. By building relationships between our officers and our residents, we can force criminals out and empower families, seniors, and business owners. We will make New Bedford streets safer.

We must:

- Ensure that our neighborhoods have assigned foot and/or bike patrols. Officers and neighborhoods get to know each other best face-to-face, not through a car window.
- Provide the best available community policing training, and include residents and business owners.
- Work with the district attorney's office to establish relationships between specific members of his staff and each neighborhood's community policing officers.
- Involve other city agency staff and other organizations both public and private.

**Working with police and the district attorney to ensure they have the tools they need to fight crime.**

As Mayor, I will work closely with our district attorney and police officers, and my office will offer every tool we have available to help them protect our residents. We will take a 'scorched earth' approach to gun, drug, and gang offenders in New Bedford, using every power of the city, state, and federal governments to remove criminals from our neighborhoods. We will work to evict these criminals from New Bedford using existing laws that hold landlords accountable. If absentee landlords continue to turn a blind eye to problem tenants, we will make them pay attention – sanctions will be initiated, tax takings will be accelerated, building inspections will be targeted – and I will

**“Let's stop pulling weeds, and let's go after the roots.”**

work with the City Council to draft ordinances that will give our law enforcement entities any tools they need to keep our neighborhoods safe.

We must begin with those who have already committed crimes. There are approximately 10,000 outstanding arrest warrants out of New Bedford district court, the majority of which stem from crimes against our citizens and our city – a number that is simply unacceptable. As Mayor, I will utilize every resource within our police department to identify the impact players with outstanding warrants and track them down. Let's stop pulling weeds, and let's go after the roots. Once we have secured the major threats, we will coordinate a strategic plan and set a goal for the reduction of the remaining warrants. We will clear this element off the streets.

We must:

- Communicate and coordinate regularly with the district attorney and law enforcement.
- Turn up the heat on absentee landlords and others who turn a blind eye to criminal activity.
- Coordinate every city agency with law enforcement to ensure that all available tools are being used to remove criminals from our neighborhoods.
- Clear outstanding warrants, prioritizing the most serious offenses.

**Building on partnerships with the State Police, DEA, and other agencies to isolate and focus on pockets of major crime.**

As Mayor, I will pull together all the disparate groups of law enforcement that currently operate in our city and make sure we are all working together for the common good. Presently there are numerous task forces

**“Drugs, guns, and gangs are synonymous”**

operating within New Bedford, all with similar yet disjointed goals of attacking crimes related to drugs, guns, and gangs. These efforts are fragmented, but drugs, guns, and gangs are synonymous. As Mayor, I will create a standing strategic committee of federal, state, and local law enforcement personnel operating in New Bedford, and make sure that no

intelligence is lost or mishandled as we work to isolate and eliminate pockets of major crime in our city.

We will also partner with the Chamber of Commerce, the business community, and non-profit organizations to identify and create programs that engage our youth. It is critical that young people in New Bedford know they have a path to responsibility and a brighter future. By focusing on youth job programs and after school opportunities, we can both involve them in our community and get them invested in their future.

### **Reengaging our citizens in their neighborhoods.**

As Mayor, I will ask that every citizen of New Bedford help us reclaim our neighborhoods. This effort will start with community policing, but it will take more than just cops to reduce crime in our city. It will also take pride, ownership, and engagement. In my first 100 days as Mayor, I will hold community meetings in neighborhoods across our city to discuss public safety and solicit feedback from residents on problems and solutions.

Rather than let the negative elements of our city hold us hostage, we will leverage the positive energy of our residents to fix our neighborhoods. A small percentage of our population is responsible for the majority of crime in our city. Yet too many residents turn a blind eye to minor problems that eventually escalate. If we are going to improve our neighborhoods, we must make a collective decision to stop enabling criminals. That means graffiti, abandoned vehicles, broken windows, dilapidated houses, garbage in streets, and building and health code violations must not be tolerated, and cannot go unreported. The minute we allow minor crime to take over New Bedford, we create the atmosphere for major crime to fester.

**“We will leverage the positive energy of our residents to fix our neighborhoods.”**

My administration will work with neighborhood leaders to address problems of blight, enforce city ordinances, and maintain clean streets across the city. We will expand the use of technology, such as the tip line,

and also pursue innovative ways to combat crime efficiently. Above all, we will create a culture that does not dwell on the negative perception of crime, but instead focuses on the positive forces to eradicate crime. This includes recognizing those public safety officers in our police, fire, and EMT departments who protect us every day.

We must:

- Listen to our residents, and proactively address crime in our neighborhoods.
- Use technology to help our residents and business owners report problems, large and small.
- Recognize professionals that perform to the highest standards.
- Create a culture that focuses on the positive effort to erase crime.

\*\*\*

Crime can be reduced, and we can take back control of our sidewalks, our homes, and our neighborhoods through the collective efforts of all of us in New Bedford. For twenty years on Beacon Hill I have been working to help law enforcement secure the tools they need to fight crime. As Mayor, I will help them wield those tools.

No one, absolutely no one, will work harder to stamp out the criminal elements in this city, and help New Bedford's citizens realize their rights of safe streets and safe neighborhoods.