



# FAIRHAVEN FIRE FIGHTERS

LOCAL 1555

**Kevin Gonsalves**  
*President*

**Representatives**  
*Ryan Amado*  
*Jonathan Cox*  
*Josh Benoit*  
*Tim Reilly*  
*Nathan Rebello*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 30, 2023

**ATTN: Statement on Overnight Shooting Incident**

**FAIRHAVEN, MASSACHUSETTS -**

Overnight, members of Fairhaven Fire Local 1555 responded to a call for a standoff with an armed individual who we now know was a former firefighter from New Bedford. This incident also left an Acushnet Police Officer shot, and we are thankful that the officer will make a full recovery. Local 1555 would like to express our gratitude to our public safety partners from Mattapoisett, Acushnet, and New Bedford for their swift and coordinated response to this incident that helped ensure that no members of the public were injured.

Responding to an incident involving a fellow brother firefighter presents unique challenges, both professionally and emotionally. Local 1555 acknowledges the difficulties faced by our members and their families stemming from this incident, and we are committed to providing the necessary support and resources to ensure their well-being and mental health.

As we navigate through this challenging period, we ask the community to join us in supporting our first responders and their families. It is through unity and understanding that we can collectively overcome the challenges posed by incidents of this nature.

In times like these, the support of our larger firefighting community is invaluable. We wish to express our gratitude to the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts (PFFM) for their immediate outreach and unwavering support. The strength of our union and the broader emergency response network lies in the solidarity we share with our fellow firefighters across the state.

President of Local 1555 said, "I am profoundly grateful for the outpouring of support from our community and fellow first responders during this challenging time. Together, we will navigate through these difficult times, supporting one another and ensuring the safety and well-being of our community."

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# PRESS RELEASE 1/2/2024

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**FAIRHAVEN** — In the aftermath of the incident on the evening of Friday, December 29th at the Bayside Lounge on Scotcut Neck Road, the Town of Fairhaven extends its sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Mattapoisett and Acushnet Police Departments for their mutual aid. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the injured Acushnet officer, and we wish them a swift and complete recovery. The collaboration and support demonstrated by the responding agencies underscore the strength of unity within our communities.

We would also like to express our heartfelt thanks to the dedicated Fairhaven First Responders, including the dispatchers, Police, Fire, and EMS personnel, whose unwavering commitment to public safety was evident during this challenging situation. Your dedication does not go unnoticed, and we are immensely grateful for your service.

In times of adversity, it is crucial to prioritize the well-being of our employees and community members. To this end, our Employee Assistance Program (EAP) stands ready to provide support to any employee in need. We encourage those who may require assistance to reach out without hesitation. For community members seeking counseling in the wake of this incident, New Bedford's Community Services Department has offered the services of the Community Behavioral Health Center. They can be reached at 508-996-3154. Walk-ins are welcome at 965 Church Street, New Bedford, MA, and additional support can be accessed online at [www.child-familyservices.org](http://www.child-familyservices.org). We thank them for their support.

As we start the New Year, the Town of Fairhaven stands united, offering support, strength, and compassion to all those affected by this incident.

The Bristol County District Attorney's Office is actively investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident. All media inquiries are kindly directed to the Bristol County District Attorney's Office, and we commit to providing further information as it can be made available.

For further updates, please stay connected through official channels