



New Bedford Police Department Office of the Chief of Police

871 Rockdale Avenue, New Bedford, MA 02740
Phone: 508-991-6300

Jonathan F. Mitchell
Mayor

Scott A. Carola
Assistant Deputy Chief

Paul J. Oliveira
Chief of Police

Derek J. Belong
Assistant Deputy Chief

To: Chief Jason Thody

Date: February 2, 2026

Re: Case #25-2379

Case #25-2379 was sustained against Officer Mason Almeida on one violation of Departmental rules and regulations. Officer Almeida transferred a firearm to a civilian without completing the proper paperwork as required by law under Chapter 140, which oversees the firearms licensing requirements in Massachusetts. As a result, a violation of 515.6(e)-Commission of a criminal act, was sustained against him.

The District Attorney's Office was assigned to review the case for potential criminal prosecution. After their internal review, they declined prosecution based on Officer Almeida's future firearm transfer/sales that were done in the appropriate manner, leading them to believe that the criminal punishment to deter future behavior was not necessary as Officer Almeida had since corrected the violation. This still resulted in an administrative rule violation and as a police officer, Officer Almeida should have known the rules surrounding the private sale and transfer of a firearm and simply stating "I thought it went through online" did not absolve him from being accountable to ensure it was done legally.

Based on the findings of this investigation and the severity of the administrative rule violation, I am recommending that Officer Mason Almeida receive a 5-day unpaid suspension.

Respectfully,

Assistant Deputy Chief Derek Belong