



**POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF BURLINGTON**

MEDIA RELEASE

INCIDENT TYPE:	DATE/TIME REPORTED:	
Driving Under the Influence (DUI)	03/31/2024 0143 Hours	
INCIDENT NUMBER:	LOCATION:	
24BU006481	1 North Avenue	
SUSPECT:	AGE:	SUSPECT ADDRESS:
Donald Pelletier III	35	Burlington, VT
SUSPECT DISPOSITION:		
Donald was taken into custody, cited, and released, then allegedly violated again		

NARRATIVE:

On March 31, 2024, at approximately 1:43am, an officer with the Burlington Police Department observed a black Mercedes travelling northbound on Battery Street. The vehicle failed to stop at a flashing red light, continued at a high rate of speed, failed to stop at another flashing red light, and almost hit the curb. The officer conducted a motor-vehicle stop on North Avenue by the BPD's headquarters. Officers identified the driver as Donald Pelletier III, 35, of Burlington. As officers conducted field sobriety tests, Pelletier allegedly stated "I'm not that drunk I failed to stop at the light and stop sign and seen when he got behind me because his lights were hard not see him. You got me... I tried to tell you that you got me. Cite me, give me my ticket." Pelletier allegedly stated "My wife will come pick my car up, I will walk home, and give me a ticket and all that but this is wasting your time." Officers took Pelletier into custody for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) and transported him to the Winooski Police Department for processing, because the BPD's equipment was out of service. Pelletier's wife arrived at the scene of the motor-vehicle stop and police released the Mercedes to her at 2:22am. Pelletier was processed and assessed to have a blood-alcohol content approximately twice the legal limit. He was cited, released, and given a courtesy transport to an address in Burlington.

At approximately 3:55am, Pelletier returned to the scene of the motor-vehicle stop, again driving the Mercedes, apparently in order to retrieve his wife's vehicle. Officers observed this and Pelletier fled south on North Avenue. Officers did not pursue but issued a "Be On Lookout" to neighboring agencies.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact the Burlington Police Department at (802) 658-2704.

Information is preliminary and subject to change.

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