



POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF BURLINGTON

## **Burlington Police Department**

Press release  
December 18, 2018

### ***MAN ON BICYCLE ARRESTED FOR STEALING PACKAGES WITH CHILD IN TOW***

The theft of packages from doorsteps and porches in Burlington increases during the holiday season. Last week, the police department received complaints of package thefts in the Old North End and the Hill Section of the city. After soliciting tips from the community, a suspect in several of the thefts was identified as a man riding a bicycle towing a makeshift cargo trailer with a child in it. The man had been seen roaming the city overnight, allegedly removing whatever packages he could find. Sergeant My Ngyuen, supervisor of the department's Street Crimes Unit, conducted a surveillance operation to follow up on this lead.

At approximately 4:00 A.M. this morning, a team of plainclothes officers observed a man riding a bicycle matching this description on North Willard Street. The officers observed him dismount the bicycle so he could remove a package from the porch of a residence there. He then handed the package to a child in the trailer he was towing and proceeded to pedal from the scene. He was apprehended a short time later without incident.

The suspect was identified as Jackie Walters, 33, of Rose Street in Burlington. The child he had rendered his unwitting accomplice was eleven years old. Investigation reveals this child was present during prior alleged thefts as well, all of them in the middle of the night. The police have referred the use of a child in this manner to the Vermont Department of Children and Families. Walters has been charged with three counts of larceny, and with endangering the child. He has seven misdemeanor convictions stemming from fifteen prior arrests for larceny and related crimes.

"One of my sons is eleven years old," said Brandon del Pozo, the Chief of Police. "The idea of a child his age riding through the city in the back of a trailer in the middle of the night so he can be an accomplice in a series of alleged thefts is heartbreaking and completely unacceptable. This is not the way a child's sense of innocence about the holidays should be lost."