



**POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF BURLINGTON**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

<b>INCIDENT TYPE:</b>		<b>DATE/TIME:</b>	
Aggravated Assault, Assault & Robbery, Stolen Vehicles, Arrest on Warrant		Multiple – See Narrative	
<b>INCIDENT NUMBER:</b>		<b>LOCATION:</b>	
Multiple Incidents – See Narrative		Burlington VT	
<b>INVESTIGATOR:</b>		<b>INVESTIGATOR CONTACT:</b>	
Multiple Uniform Officers, Street Crimes Unit Officers and Detectives			
<b>AUTHOR:</b>		<b>APPROVED BY:</b>	
Sergeant My T. Nguyen		Chief Brandon del Pozo	
<b>VICTIM:</b>		<b>AGE:</b>	<b>VICTIM ADDRESS:</b>
Multiple Victims			Burlington, VT
<b>SUSPECT:</b>		<b>AGE:</b>	<b>SUSPECT ADDRESS:</b>
Robert J. Villa		35	Transient
SUSPECT DISPOSITION: Lodged at County Jail on \$25,000 bail for the arrest warrant and \$50,000 bail for subsequent charges.			

**NARRATIVE:**

Between December 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2018 and January 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2019 the Burlington Police Department took reports of numerous felony offenses, including Assault and Robbery, Larceny from Building, Aggravated Assault, and Aggravated Operation without Owner’s Consent, occurring throughout Burlington Vermont. Through subsequent investigation, the crimes were found to be committed by the same person, later identified as Robert J. Villa.

On January 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2018, undercover officers from the Burlington Street Crimes Unit and Detectives Bureau, with the assistance of the Winooski Police Department, located and arrested Villa at a location in Winooski. At the time of arrest, Robert J. Villa also had an outstanding \$25,000 warrant for Burglary and Drug Possession. Villa was taken into custody for the outstanding warrant and was held on \$50,000 bail for subsequent charges of Assault and Robbery, Larceny from Building, Aggravated Assault, and Aggravated Operation without Owner’s Consent.

Villa is a convicted felon with a history of violence and an extensive criminal record. Villa has 11 prior felony charges with 6 convictions, 41 misdemeanor charges with 19 convictions, 4 assaultive crime charges with 3 convictions, 1 assault on a police officer charge, 3 violation of a court order charges with 2 convictions and 6 escape charges. Villa has 9 previous failures to appear at a court proceeding.

**18BU028914:** On December 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2018, at approximately 1:57 PM, Burlington Police officers were dispatched to a residence on North Union Street for a larceny. From the investigation, police learned that Robert Villa had strangled a male victim until the victim was nearly unconscious. A witness was able to interfere and help remove Villa from the victim. Prior to fleeing the scene, Villa stole property that belonged to the victim. The victim also reported an assault that took place on December 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2018, where



POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF BURLINGTON

Robert Villa assaulted the victim by kicking the victim multiple times to the head and lower back area. The victim declined medical aid.

**18BU029203**: On December 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2018, at approximately 5:37 PM, Burlington Police officers were dispatched to a residence on North Avenue for a report of a stolen vehicle. From the investigation, police learned that Robert Villa stole the vehicle from a male victim and later sold it to a third party. Police later recovered the vehicle from the person that conducted the purchase.

**19BU000053**: On January 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2019, at approximately 3:56 PM, Burlington Police officers were dispatched to the area of North Winooski Avenue at North Street for a report of a disturbance. From the investigation, police learned that Robert Villa pepper sprayed a male victim causing the victim to be incapacitated. Villa then proceeded to kick and punch the victim and stole properties belonging to the victim prior to fleeing the scene.

**19BU000085**: On January 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2019, at approximately 8:18 AM, Burlington Police Officers were dispatched to a residence on North Champlain Street for a report of a stolen vehicle. From the investigation, police developed Robert Villa as a suspect. The vehicle was later located near the location where Villa was apprehended and Villa was in possession of the keys to the vehicle. Villa later admitted to stealing the vehicle.