



**POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF BURLINGTON**

MEDIA RELEASE

INCIDENT TYPE:	DATE/TIME REPORTED:	
Lewd and lascivious conduct with a child; violation of conditions of release for child pornography	6/14/2019 1311 Hours	
INCIDENT NUMBER:	LOCATION:	
19BU011801; 19BU007115	Williston Road, South Burlington	
INVESTIGATOR:	INVESTIGATOR CONTACT:	
CUSI; Detective Corporal Chenette	Chenette: 540-2271	
AUTHOR:	APPROVED BY:	
DC Murad	Chief del Pozo	
SUSPECT:	AGE:	SUSPECT ADDRESS:
Sean Guillette	54	transient
SUSPECT DISPOSITION:		
Held without bail pending arraignment.		

NARRATIVE:

At approximately 1311 hours on Friday, June 14, 2019, police apprehended Sean Guillette, 54, in South Burlington. Police had been actively seeking Mr. Guillette in connection with an alleged act of lewd and lascivious conduct with a child, and had issued a bulletin describing him and his vehicle. An officer with the South Burlington Police Department recognized the vehicle. The South Burlington officer and detectives from the Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations (CUSI) stopped the vehicle in the vicinity of the Delta Hotel, on eastbound Williston Road. Mr. Guillette was placed in rear-locked handcuffs but, while officers conferred and awaited the response of Burlington Police officers, he was able to obtain an extendable box cutter and attempt self-harm, specifically cutting his own neck. He caused superficial lacerations. A responding Burlington Police officer deployed an electronic control device, allowing officers to disarm Mr. Guillette. He was taken to the University of Vermont Medical Center emergency department for treatment for non-life-threatening wounds. After treatment and discharge, he was taken to the Burlington Police Department and processed. He was then taken to the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility where he was held without bail on charges of lewd and lascivious conduct with a child, third offense, and violation of conditions of release associated with a previous arrest for possession of child pornography.



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Mr. Guillette's recent history of involvement with local police agencies and recent alleged crimes are described below.

On April 11, at approximately 1023, officers responded to allegations of a past domestic assault in the Old North End. The victim stated that the suspect, Sean Guillette, 54, had been assaulting her off and on for the duration of their relationship. During the interview, she advised officers that Mr. Guillette was a registered sex offender and had been looking at child pornography involving a four-year-old boy on his phone. She also stated that he had been looking at videos of young females in various states of undress who appeared to be between the ages of ten and twelve. Because Mr. Guillette had left his phone in the victim's car, officers were able to take custody of it and refer the case to detectives.

(With regard to the domestic violence allegations, officers were able to help the victim obtain a temporary restraining order and create a domestic violence safety plan. Mr. Guillette allegedly violated the restraining order on several occasions. Each time he would flee prior to officers' response. He was ultimately apprehended on aggravated domestic assault charges on April 26.)

Burlington Police detectives obtained a search warrant for the phone. More than 100 images and videos were located depicting children as young as infants involved in sex acts. Detectives also determined that Mr. Guillette is a convicted sex offender with four convictions for Lewd and Lascivious Conduct with a Child from 1991 and 1999. He had been incarcerated from 1999 until his release in 2016 and, because he did not participate in treatment, he is considered high risk to reoffend.

On Friday, May 3, Mr. Guillette was arrested and charged with six felony counts associated with the child pornography. He was held on \$10,000 bail to appear at the Chittenden Superior court on Monday, May 6, at which time he was released on conditions. Burlington Police issued a press release at that time.

On Monday, June 10, at approximately 1826, a female caller advised officers that approximately an hour earlier, at the Hannaford Supermarket in the new North End, an unknown male had inappropriately touched her daughter, age 10. Officers responded to the caller's home and spoke to the woman. The child victim spoke to officers and provided the same account. She described



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the suspect as a white male with shorter dark hair and noted he was unshaven. She further stated that she believed the man had approached her earlier in the week in front of her house.

Officers contacted the Hannaford store manager and were able to make a cursory review of security recordings. Officers also could see the suspect enter a vehicle, but could not discern make, model, or license. Because the loss prevention supervisor was unavailable, officers could not initially get copies of the video recordings.

On the following day, Tuesday, June 11, officers additionally canvassed surrounding businesses for cameras but were unable to obtain footage.

On Wednesday, June 12, the victim's mother emailed the case officer and wrote that she had gone to an online database of registered sex offenders and identified a possible suspect. The case officer was not on shift, but upon receipt of the email on June 13, he communicated with the Detective Sergeant who commands CUSI stating that he now had probable cause to believe that Mr. Guillette was the perpetrator of the incident at the Hannaford supermarket. Officers at Burlington Police Department and CUSI prepared an affidavit and put out a bulletin on the night of Thursday, June 13. This led to Mr. Guillette's apprehension on Friday, June 14.

Additionally, Burlington Police received reports of another incident, on Thursday, June 13, at approximately 1435 hours, that we are continuing to investigate. On that date, officers were called to a location in the Old North End for reports that a man had allegedly inappropriately touched a 10-year-old girl. The girl had been playing in her backyard with other children when she was approached by the man from the other side of the fence around the yard. The victim described the man as white, middle aged, of medium build, with shorter black-and-grey hair and black-and-grey scruff on his face. It is unknown if these events are connected and we seek additional information from the public.

The Burlington Police believe that public safety is a shared responsibility between officers and the neighbors with whom we work and whom we serve. Accordingly, we ask the public's assistance in providing any additional information about these incidents, or any other recent incidents that have not yet been reported but may be connected.

Incidents like this naturally cause people to be concerned about the wellbeing of their children. The Burlington Police Department does not ascribe to the idea of "stranger danger." In strong



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communities, people know and connect with their neighbors. Furthermore, we want kids who become separated or lost to seek out help. Finally, people who harm children are, thankfully, rare. But there are some steps parents can take:

- 1) Tell your kids that adults don't normally need help from children. If a child is approached by an adult he or she does not know, and the adult seeks assistance from the child, that may be a red flag.
- 2) Let your kids know that children can tell adults "no." In certain scenarios, they may have to do so loudly.
- 3) Know what your kids are wearing. If you're attending an event, particularly one that may be crowded or where you and your children may be separated, take a quick picture of your kids. You can also explicitly arrange for places to meet if you do become separated.
- 4) Teach your kids to know their address and your contact information as soon as they're able.

If you have information about any of these incidents, please contact Detective Chenette at (802) 540-2271.



Sean Guillette