



POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF BURLINGTON

MEDIA RELEASE

INCIDENT TYPE:	DATE/TIME REPORTED:	
Wanted Felon / Commercial Burglaries	Early November 2019 – Early January 2020	
INCIDENT NUMBER:	LOCATION:	
Multiple	Burlington / Downtown Businesses	
INVESTIGATOR:	INVESTIGATOR CONTACT:	
Street Crimes Unit: Officer Gregory Short Officer Zachary Beal	658-2704	
AUTHOR:	APPROVED BY:	
Sgt My T. Nguyen	DC Murad	
SUSPECT:	AGE:	SUSPECT ADDRESS:
Lance F. Mason	49	Unknown

NARRATIVE:

Between November 2019 and January 2020, Burlington Police have investigated multiple burglaries / larcenies to businesses in the downtown area of Burlington. Investigators determined that these crimes constituted a pattern showing similar modus operandi. Investigators further determined that Lance F. Mason, 49, was a suspect for a number of these incidents. Mr. Mason has shown a consistent pattern of recidivism; he was previously arrested in 2015 and 2017 for multiple similar burglaries.

Mr. Mason has multiple previous felony convictions and was known to be on escape status with the Department of Corrections. Earlier this fall, he had been out on furlough for several days when he is believed to have cut off his GPS ankle monitor bracelet and absconded. A commissioner warrant was issued for Lance Mason on November 13, 2019. Shortly after Mr. Mason escaped, Burlington Police began receiving multiple reports of burglaries to businesses in the downtown area, in which large sums of cash were stolen.

19BU025127: On November 13, 2019, Burlington Police responded to the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts for a report of a burglary. Staff discovered that the previous day, an unknown male entered the business and stole a large sum of cash and various other items. The BPD's investigation developed evidence connecting Mr. Mason to the felony (Burglary).

Information is preliminary and subject to change.



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19BU026684: On December 4, 2019, Burlington Police responded to the Burlington Bay Market & Café for a report of a larceny. Staff discovered that an unknown male had entered the business and stole a large sum of cash from the register and the tip jar. The BPD investigation connected Mr. Mason to this felony (Grand Larceny).

19BU028399: On December 31, 2019, Burlington Police responded to Piesanos Pizza Restaurant for a report of a burglary. Staff discovered that an unknown male had entered the business when it was closed, forced open the cash register, and stole a sum of cash inside. The BPD investigation connected Mr. Mason to this felony (Burglary).

Arrest: On the night of January 11, 2020, officers from the BPD's Street Crimes Unit (SCU) located and arrested Mr. Mason in a common stairway of an apartment building on Main Street in downtown Burlington. Mr. Mason's arrest has been a priority for the Burlington Street Crimes Unit. Members of the Street Crimes Unit worked tirelessly for the past week, chasing down leads, interviewing subjects, reviewing numerous hours of surveillance video from multiple locations, and conducting significant surveillance.

At this time Mr. Mason is also a suspect in multiple other commercial burglaries and larcenies in the downtown area. Officers are continuing to investigate these crimes.

Sergeant Nguyen commends SCU Officers Gregory Short and Zachary Beal for their work on these investigations. Tracking and arresting Mr. Mason is expected to close an extensive burglary pattern as well as prevent other local businesses from being victimized. Sergeant Nguyen would also like to thank local businesses as well as the Burlington Probation and Parole Office for their cooperation in this investigation.

“Preventing crime and disorder is a shared responsibility,” said Deputy Chief Jon Murad. “By working with law-enforcement colleagues and local business partners, Sergeant Nguyen and his team were able to apprehend Mr. Mason quickly and without incident. As our partners in the criminal justice system take the next steps to obtain appropriate justice for Mr. Mason, we hope our neighbors will not have to worry about being victimized by him further.”

Mr. Mason has been held on the commissioner's warrant and is expected to face arraignment tomorrow (Monday, January 13). He has a lengthy history of law-enforcement contacts, and his criminal records show the following:

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- Five instances of Failure to Appear at a court proceeding
- 21 felony convictions
- 18 misdemeanor convictions
- One charge for assault on an officer
- Five Escape charges

Anyone with information about the incidents described above or others believed to be related is asked to contact the Burlington Police Department at (802) 658-2704.

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