



**POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF BURLINGTON**

MEDIA RELEASE

INCIDENT TYPE:	DATE/TIME REPORTED:	
Mental Health Issue	02/05/2020 0551 Hours	
INCIDENT NUMBER:	LOCATION:	
20BU002511	One North Avenue	
AUTHOR:	APPROVED BY:	
DC Murad	Chief Morrison	
SUBJECT:	AGE:	SUSPECT ADDRESS:
Known to the Department	37	Known to the Department

NARRATIVE:

At approximately 0551 hours on Wednesday, February 5, 2020, the Burlington Police Department dispatch received multiple 911 calls reporting a woman with a handgun walking in the vicinity of One North Avenue. Callers reported that the woman was distraught and made comments indicating that she intended to confront police with the firearm and wanted to be shot.

A sergeant and four officers contained the scene and allowed the woman to pace with a handgun visible in her hand. Dispatchers used BPD cameras to monitor the situation as officers made contact with one of the woman's friends to obtain additional information.

The woman began to advance towards officers, who gave verbal commands at gunpoint. The woman discarded the handgun, stated "Go ahead and shoot me, I don't [expletive] care anymore," and began to weep. The woman further stated she intended for officers to shoot her. Officers took her into custody and determined the handgun to be a realistic imitation firearm. The Burlington Fire Department transported her to University of Vermont Medical Center for a crisis evaluation.

"Each year, officers respond to thousands of mental health-related incidents in which people in crisis need our help," said Chief of Police Jennifer Morrison. "Sometimes, those people present a danger to themselves and others. The men and women of the Burlington Police Department approach these high stakes situations with the benefit of both tactical and de-escalation training, experience, and a deep desire to keep people safe. This morning, they did just that."

Information is preliminary and subject to change.



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