



**POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF BURLINGTON**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

INCIDENT TYPE:	DATE/TIME REPORTED:	
Arson	02/10/2020 0949 Hours	
INCIDENT NUMBER:	LOCATION:	
20BU002879	City Hall	
INVESTIGATOR:	INVESTIGATOR CONTACT:	
Ofc Moran	658-2704	
AUTHOR:	APPROVED BY:	
DC Murad	DC Murad	
SUSPECT:	AGE:	SUSPECT ADDRESS:
Dennis Phillips	62	Undomiciled
SUSPECT DISPOSITION:		
Arson 2, Reckless Endangerment, Unlawful Mischief		

**NARRATIVE:**

At approximately 0949 hours on Monday, February 10, 2020, Burlington Police Department dispatch received a call from a man who stated that he was in Burlington City Hall and was going to light the building on fire. The caller was identified as Dennis Phillips, 62, a person with a long history of police interactions. Officers and personnel from Street Outreach responded to City Hall and discovered a fire in the second-floor hallway, obstructing egress for the many people working in the building. Officers also discovered that Mr. Phillips had barricaded himself in a small break room overlooking City Hall Park, and was apparently armed with a hammer and destroying property. Officers negotiated with Mr. Phillips and arranged for his peaceful surrender, at which point he was taken into custody.

Mr. Phillips is expected to be arraigned this afternoon, and will be charged with arson in the second degree, reckless endangerment, and unlawful mischief.

Mr. Phillips has multiple convictions for assault, attempting to elude, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, operating a motor vehicle with suspended license, and unlawful trespass, as well as six convictions for violations of conditions of release.

“Today, Dennis Phillips put hardworking city employees at risk, and that is unacceptable,” said Chief of Police Jennifer Morrison. “His long history shows that he has repeatedly and

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consistently endangered the public. My officers are working closely with the office of the State’s Attorney to ensure that he faces consequences for committing arson in an occupied building.”

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