**MEDIA RELEASE**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| INCIDENT TYPE:  | DATE/TIME REPORTED:  |
|  Attempted 2nd Murder | Wednesday April 22, 2020 15:49 hours |
| INCIDENT NUMBER:  | LOCATION  |
| 20BU007440 | 219 Main St. – Champlain Farms |
| INVESTIGATOR: | INVESTIGATOR CONTACT: 540-2271 |
| Det. Chenette |  |
| AUTHOR:  | APPROVED BY: |
| Lt. Wade Labrecque |  |
| VICTIM:  | AGE: | VICTIM ADDRESS: |
| Employees/Customers |  |  |
| SUSPECT:  | AGE: | SUSPECT ADDRESS: |
| Jahi D Bennett- Gooden | 23  | South Burlington |
| SUSPECT DISPOSITION: |   |
| Lodged  |

**NARRATIVE**

On Wednesday April 22, 2020 at approximately 15:49 hours Officers from the Burlington Police Department responded to Champlain Farms located at 219 Main Street for a silent panic alarm. Almost simultaneously Burlington Police Officer Luz Winters was driving eastbound on Main Street at the intersection of South Winooski. Officer Winters observed Bennett-Gooden, walking backwards away from Champlain Farms, fire three rounds from a semi-automatic handgun into the store. Bennett-Gooden then fled on foot north bound on South Winooski Ave. Officer Winters activated her blue lights and siren and pursed Bennett- Gooden stopping him at South Winooski and College Street. Officer Winters was then able to take him into custody without further incident.

A loaded firearm was recovered from Bennett-Gooden. Later an additional magazine was located by Burlington Police officers during a canvas of the area. Shell casing recovered at the crime scene showed that Bennett- Gooden fired approximately three shots inside Champlain Farms as well as the three outside. A victim stated that Bennett-Gooden pointed the firearm directly at them and as they ran from Bennett-Gooden they heard three shots. The victim stated that when they heard the shots they expected they were going to be killed. Bennett-Gooden is being held without bail pending his arraignment tomorrow morning.

Bennett- Gooden has had several incidents in the past 5 days with other Vermont Law Enforcement Agencies involving him allegedly brandishing a firearm.

OIC Lt. Wade Labrecque stated that “Officer Winters did not hesitate in pursuing an armed suspect and placing herself in harms way to protect the citizens of Burlington”. Lt. Labrecque went on to state that “Due to Officer Winter’s courageous, quick and decisive action, this incident was brought to a safe and swift conclusion for both the suspect and the public. Officer Winter’s exemplifies the training and dedication of the men and women of the Burlington Police Department”.