



POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF BURLINGTON

**MEDIA RELEASE**

Late last night, an incident involving gunfire occurred in Burlington. The Burlington Police Department (BPD) believes the incident is related to two previous incidents that occurred last week, and we seek information from Burlington neighbors in an effort to prevent additional incidents and further escalation.

On Monday, August 17, 2020, at approximately 2237 hours, BPD dispatch received a call from a person who stated he had been shot at in the vicinity of Leddy Park, had crashed his vehicle, and was now hiding in the woods.

Officers responded and discovered a vehicle that had struck a tree on the exit road from Leddy Park. The vehicle's airbags had deployed and apparent bullet holes were discernable. Officers made contact with the initial caller, then swept the woods and beaches in the vicinity to secure the scene.

A second person then called 9-1-1 from a nearby house, to which he had fled and been admitted by residents when he pled for help. Officer made contact with him and he was taken to UVMMC for non-life-threatening injuries apparently associated with the crash.

Police believe that the occupants of two vehicles were parked in the Leddy Park parking lot when a third vehicle suddenly arrived. An occupant or occupants of the third vehicle discharged a firearm or firearms at an occupant of one of the other vehicles. That individual entered one of the original vehicles, whose driver then attempted to flee before crashing into a tree. When the people in the crashed car exited and attempted to flee on foot, an occupant or occupants of the third vehicle fired additional shots at them.

Detectives have reason to believe last night's gunfire is associated with previously reported gunfire incidents that occurred at Oakledge Park on Thursday, August 13, 2020, at approximately 2347 hours, and at a residence on Plattsburg Avenue on Friday, August 14, at approximately 0330 hours. The investigation leads us to believe that another associated violent incident occurred at a large party that occurred in the Burlington Hill Section, in the vicinity of South Union Street and Buell Street, on Saturday night.

*Information is preliminary and subject to change.*

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“It is by luck alone that no one has been shot during these incidents,” said Acting Chief of Police Jon Murad. “But our detectives are working on these cases as if they were homicides, because we’re trying to do everything we can to prevent a homicide from happening. We have identified involved persons and potential suspects, but we need people with more knowledge about these incidents to come forward. Public safety is a shared responsibility. Help keep your friends safe, if they won’t help themselves.”

Neighbors with information about these incidents are asked to contact Detective Kratochvil at the Burlington Police Department at (802) 540-2308.

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