**MEDIA RELEASE**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| INCIDENT TYPE:  | DATE/TIME REPORTED:  |
| **Attempted Murder-2nd degree, Domestic Assault, Unlawful Restraint, Interference with Access to Emergency Services** | July 7, 2021 at 2334 hours |
| INCIDENT NUMBER:  | LOCATION:  |
| 21BU010313 | Burlington |
| INVESTIGATOR:  | INVESTIGATOR CONTACT:  |
| Ofc. B. McGee | 802-540-2385 |
| AUTHOR:  | APPROVED BY: |
| Sgt. Michael Henry | Sgt. Michael Henry |
| SUSPECT:  | AGE: | SUSPECT ADDRESS: |
| Stephen Blaisdell | 36 |   |
| SUSPECT DISPOSITION:  |   |
| Blaisdell was taken into custody and lodged at the Northwest Correctional Facility. Blaisdell is being held without bail and being criminally charged with **Attempted Murder-2nd degree** in violation of Title 13 VSA 2303 (A) (2), **Unlawful Restraint**, in violation of Title 13 VSA 2407, **Interference with Access to Emergency Services**, in violation of Title 13 VSA 1031 and **Domestic Assault** in violation of Title 13 VSA 1044.  |

**NARRATIVE:**

On 07 July 8, 2021, at approximately 2334 hours, The Burlington Police Department received a 911 call from a female stating she was assaulted by her boyfriend. The caller stated she was assaulted with his fist, a wooden handle, a TV stand, a fan, and had been strangled multiple times. The caller advised she was injured and went to a neighbor’s apartment to escape her boyfriend.

Officers arrived on scene and immediately observed injuries to the victim’s left side of the face and head to be swollen to the degree that her left eye was swollen shut. Officers observed additional injuries to her left cheek below the swollen eye, as the area was turning red and purple, and was bleeding. Officers were able to observe the victim’s neck turning read and purple in the area she was strangled. The caller identified her boyfriend as Stephen Blaisdell, age 36, as her attacker.

The victim advised Officers that Blaisdell had strangled her to the point she could not breathe and made statements to her as he was strangling her saying “I’m gonna kill you.” The victim stated Blaisdell picked up a wooden stick and began hitting her in the face and head. The victim told Officers as Blaisdell was strangling her in what she described as both his hands around her neck screaming “you wanna die, well we’re both dying tonight.” The victim lost consciousness and woke up to Blaisdell making statements to her “that’s what happens when you die, you lose all your body functions.” The victim stated Blaisdell had strangled her three times in which she lost consciousness every time.

The victim was able to escape to the common hallway of the apartment complex until Blaisdell punched her in the face, causing her to fall to the ground. The victim advised Blaisdell grabbed her ankles and dragged her back into the apartment. The victim attempted to call 911 during the assault however Blaisdell broke her IPad and cell phone preventing her from contacting emergency services. The victim attempted to escape again, only to have Blaisdell punch her in the face again, and pushing her against the door, strangling her again. Blaisdell then took the door and hit the victim in the face. The victim was only able to get away from Blaisdell when he allowed her to leave the apartment. The victim said Blaisdell had pulled the fire alarm system inside the apartment complex to get tenants to leave the building after she escaped to the neighbor’s to call for help.

Burlington Fire Department transported the victim to the University of Vermont Medical Center for medical evaluation. Blaisdell was taken into custody and transported back to the Burlington Police Department. Blaisdell was held without bail by the Honorable Judge and scheduled to be to appear in court on 08 July 2021, at 1030 am.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact the Burlington Police Department at (802) 658-2704.