**MEDIA RELEASE**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| INCIDENT TYPE:  | DATE/TIME REPORTED:  |
| DUI, Eluding Police, Negligent Operation of a motor vehicle | July 15, 2021 at 0253 hours |
| INCIDENT NUMBER:  | LOCATION:  |
| 21BU010815 | Shelburne Rd and Home Ave |
| INVESTIGATOR:  | INVESTIGATOR CONTACT:  |
| Ofc. Huynh | (802) 540-2392 |
| AUTHOR:  | APPROVED BY: |
| Sgt. Michael Henry | Lt. Brownell |
| SUSPECT:  | AGE: | SUSPECT ADDRESS: |
| Miguel Otero Jr | 38 |   |
| SUSPECT DISPOSITION:  |   |
| Miguel Otero was taken into custody for DUI-1st Offense, in accordance to T23 VSA 1201, Eluding a Police Officer, in accordance to T23 VSA 1133, and Negligent Operation of a motor vehicle in accordance to T 23 VSA 1091. |

**NARRATIVE:**

On 15 July 2021, at approximately 0253 hours, Burlington Police Department’s Dispatch Center received a 911 call of a grey Range Rover stopped at the traffic light of Shelburne Rd and Home Avenue with the operator slumped over the wheel.

The Officer approached the vehicle which was facing southbound and noticed the vehicle’s engine running. The Officer observed the male operator slumped over the steering wheel, passed out. The operator was later identified as Miguel Otero, age 38.

The Officer woke Otero and Otero advised the Officer he was “just chilling”. Subsequently, against the Officer’s orders, Otero put the vehicle in drive and quickly accelerated southbound on Shelburne Rd. Otero lost control of the vehicle, struck a curb, which resulted in the front right tire deflating. Officer did not pursue Otero when he fled the scene. Otero continued southbound with a flat tire until he observed marked police cruisers with their blue lights activated at the road construction on Shelburne Rd. Otero proceeded to make a U-Turn and began traveling northbound on Shelburne Rd back towards the original scene. Otero passed by the Burlington Officer, looked at the Officer, and appeared to smile as he drove by.

Officers located Otero’s vehicle abandoned on Richardson St, in Burlington. Officers discovered the vehicle to be unoccupied and no one around. Otero’s vehicle was towed back to the Burlington Police Department.

Officers canvased the area for Otero and located him walking eastbound on Flynn Avenue near Pine St. Otero was taken into custody for DUI, Eluding a Police Officer, and Negligent Operation of a motor vehicle. Otero was issued a citation to appear in Vermont Superior Court on 5 August 2021 at 0815 hours.

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