**MEDIA RELEASE**

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| INCIDENT TYPE:  | DATE/TIME REPORTED:  |
| 1st Degree Domestic Aggravated (x2), 2nd Degree Aggravated Domestic Assault (x3) | July 15, 2021 |
| INCIDENT NUMBER:  | LOCATION:  |
| 21BU008932 | Burlington area |
| INVESTIGATOR:  | INVESTIGATOR CONTACT:  |
| Cpl. Moyer | (802) 540-2326 |
| AUTHOR:  | APPROVED BY: |
| Sgt. Michael Henry | Lt Brownell |
| SUSPECT:  | AGE: | SUSPECT ADDRESS: |
| Leo Myers | 42 |  |
| SUSPECT DISPOSITION:  |   |
| Leo Myers was taken into custody for 1st Degree Aggravated Domestic Assault (x2) in violation of T13 VSA 1043 and 2nd Degree of Aggravated Domestic Assault (x3) in violation of T13 VSA 1044. Myers was transported to Vermont Superior Court for arraignment.  |

**NARRATIVE:**

On 15 July 2021, at approximately 1000 hours, The Burlington Police Department located and arrested a Leo Myers, age 42, after a lengthy and complex investigation into allegation of Domestic Assault. This investigation revealed abuse to the victim over the course of 4 years.

The investigation discovered the physical abuse started back in 2018. The victim was hospitalized over the course of the physical abuse resulting in emergency surgery that has had lasting effects as well as broken nose and jaw. The most recent assault left the victim with significant contusions on her body.

The investigation into the assaults started on 17 June 2021, when the Burlington Police Department responded to a report of a domestic assault that had occurred. Officers arrived on scene and spoke to the victim. Officers observed the victim to be tired and what appeared to have been crying. The victim advised the Officers that her boyfriend, Leo Myers, had physical assaulted the previous night, 16 June 2021. Myers had grabbed onto her arm and punched her arm, both actions causing pain and bruising. Officers observed several round, dark purple bruises. The victim also had bruising on her left arm, left hip and leg area. The victim told Officers the argument lasted for hours, and she was prevented from leaving the apartment by Myers. The victim stated Myers broke her phone and took her purse with her bank card so she had no access to money. She told officers that Myers had withdrawn all her money in her account.

The victim was afraid that Myers would kill her and that he had friends watching her movements. Officers on scene witnessed several people in the area driving by spying on the victim as she spoke with Officers. Officers witnessed individuals in vehicles suspiciously driving and walking by.

The victim was transported to a safe location where an Officer could speak to her in a more private setting. An Officer spoke to the victim and obtained a statement of the years of physical abuse leading up to the most recent. ***Investigation is still pending and this is preliminary information being released and is subject to change pending new information or leads.***

**Myers was arraigned in Vermont Superior Court where probable cause was found by the Honorable Judge. Myers was charged with 7 counts and is being held without bail, and to have no contact with the victim.**

This investigation was collaboration of area agencies to create a safe environment for the victim to come forward and speak out against the physical and emotional abuse she suffered for 4 years. The Burlington Police Department also like to thank Burlington Housing Authority for their assistance in this criminal investigation.

Burlington Police takes reports of domestic violence seriously. If you are the victim of

Domestic violence please know that there are resources available for you. Steps to End

Domestic Violence hotline can be reached by calling 802-658-1996.

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