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## BPD Press Release; gunfire incident downtown 8/21



Murad, Jon

Yesterday, 4:26 PM

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### NARRATIVE, Incident 21BU013386:

On Saturday morning, August 21, 2021, at approximately 0236 hours, Burlington Police dispatch received calls about a firearm discharge that occurred on Main Street in the vicinity of Church Street. Initial callers reported that a male suspect discharged rounds and people in the vicinity fled. Officers responded to the location and obtained witness statements and physical evidence that corroborated the accounts. Officers did not discover any injured parties or suspects on scene, and the case was turned over to detectives.

Preliminary initial investigation by detectives suggests that the suspect caused multiple disturbances in the vicinity by pointing by a firearm with a flashlight attachment at several individuals, each apparently at random. At one point three males who appear to be entirely uninvolved bystanders drew the suspect's attention; the suspect produced the firearm, apparently discharged it in an unknown direction, then racked the slide in a threatening manner and pointed the firearm at the three males.

The victims fled and the suspect left the scene in a vehicle with other individuals. Persons believed to be associated with this incident are also considered persons of interest in prior gunfire incidents and/or are associated with people involved in prior gunfire incidents.

The investigation into this gunfire incident is in the earliest stages and more information will be forthcoming as it develops.

A gunfire incident is one in which police have probable cause that a firearm was discharged in the City of Burlington and reasonable suspicion that it was discharged at another person or in a reckless manner. (This excludes suicides by firearm, self-inflicted gunshot wounds, and hunting discharges, although such discharges are nevertheless unlawful in Burlington.) From 2012 to 2019, the annual average of gunfire incidents was two. In 2020 there were a dozen gunfire incidents. This is the eleventh gunfire incident of 2021.

"Around the country, many cities are seeing very troubling increases in gun violence," said acting Chief of Police Jon Murad, "and Burlington isn't escaping the trend. So far the drastic increase in gunfire has not resulted in people being shot or killed. But that will not last. When guns are fired in crowded cities, people will eventually get hurt. What's more, people are already being harmed by the sense of

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partners to join the BPD in addressing the small number of individuals who have recurring involvement in or association with gunfire incidents. We all need to work together to keep our community safe."

"This unprecedented level of gunfire incidents in the downtown is unacceptable and has to stop," said Mayor Miro Weinberger. "I fully support Chief Murad's efforts to investigate and determine what groups and individuals are driving this pattern and to take decisive action to bring these recurring incidents to an end."

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

*Information is preliminary and subject to change.*

Jon Murad  
Acting Chief of Police  
Burlington Police Department  
(802) 735-7143  
Sent from my iPhone

Please note that this communication and any response to it will be maintained as a public record and may be subject to disclosure under the Vermont Public Records Act.