



POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF BURLINGTON

MEDIA RELEASE

In August 2021, the Burlington Police Department and the independent Burlington Police Commission entered into [an agreement to release certain body-worn camera footage](#). (The agreement is linked and also attached.) As Chief of Police, I expressed enthusiasm about doing so, but noted that the police department would need a redaction specialist in order to handle the anticipated workload. The position was included as part of the FY23 budget approved for July 2022, and after interviewing several candidates, we hired a person for the position in December 2022. Accordingly, today we are releasing our first video. This incident, 23BU00635, is the first applicable use of force for 2023. The incident took place on January 11. In it, officers conducted a “felony car stop,” which included pointing firearms at a man who had recklessly driven a vehicle believed to be stolen. The video shows officers pointing firearms, and also contains profanity. [It has been posted to the Burlington Police Department YouTube channel](#). Viewer discretion is advised.

<https://youtu.be/zDxecL1JUY>

The [Burlington Police Department’s use-of-force policy](#) is available for review on our website. The Burlington Police Department reviews each and every use-of-force incident via a multi-officer review process that includes trained supervisors and a deputy chief. Additionally, Mayor Miro Weinberger receives a notification when any person of color is subject to a use of force. By [Mayoral Executive Order](#), certain uses of force are specifically reviewed by the Mayor, as well. All uses of force are shared with the Burlington Police Commission.

The [Burlington Police Department’s monthly Use-of-Force Reports](#) are fully public and also available for review on our website. These include a description of each and every use-of-force incident; information about the race, sex, age, and physical characteristics of the subject; the type of force used; and the number of involved persons.

As Vermont’s statewide use-of-force policy states, although “police seek to accomplish lawful objectives through cooperation with the public ... there are times when use of force against a citizen is unavoidable.” Our goal is to minimize those instances as much as possible, and to ensure that when force must happen it is both lawful and as minimal as possible. I believe our [data transparency](#), and the new step of making body-worn camera video public as well, is a key part of ensuring just that—and engendering public trust in the process.

Information is preliminary and subject to change.

ANTONIO B. POMERLEAU BUILDING • ONE NORTH AVENUE • BURLINGTON, VT 05401