



**POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF BURLINGTON**

MEDIA RELEASE

INCIDENT TYPE:	DATE/TIME REPORTED:
Trespass	04/19/2023 1332 Hours
INCIDENT NUMBER:	LOCATION:
23BU007293	Burlington International Airport
INVESTIGATOR:	INVESTIGATOR CONTACT:
Officer Philbrick	(802) 540-2409
AUTHOR:	APPROVED BY:
Sarah Hernandez Timm	Chief Murad

NARRATIVE:

On April 19, 2023 at approximately 1332 hours, a Burlington Police Department officer assigned to the Patrick Leahy Burlington International Airport radioed for assistance. BPD officers assigned to the city responded. A male caused a significant disturbance at the Transportation Security Administration checkpoint after his hands were swabbed as part of a routine security procedure. The man, Howard Zlotkin, 63, alleged that the swabs had contaminated him and became agitated and disruptive, causing the checkpoint to be briefly closed.

Burlington Police and personnel with the South Burlington Fire Department attempted to calm Mr. Zlotkin and offered him medical care, which he refused. Airport officials advised that the male was not going to be allowed to fly and that he would need to leave the airport. The male refused to leave and was taken into custody for unlawful trespass and disorderly conduct.

Mr. Zlotkin was transported back to police headquarters. Officers consulted a judge who ordered that Mr. Zlotkin be released on conditions. When officers followed those instructions, Mr. Zlotkin refused to leave the holding area and assaulted a police officer. Officers contacted the judge again, who directed that the new assault charges be added to the current case and again directed that Mr. Zlotkin be released on the same conditions. The judge also recommended that Mr. Zlotkin should be seen by First Call for a mental health evaluation.

Officers therefore temporarily detained Mr. Zlotkin and applied forthwith for an emergency evaluation. The order was approved by the judge. Police called Burlington Fire Department personnel to help transport Mr. Zlotkin to the University of Vermont Medical Center. During that

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process, the subject attempted to kick and bite officers, and head-butted a BFD employee while attempting to head-butt an officer. He was ultimately transported to UVMMC and admitted.

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

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