



**POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF BURLINGTON**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

INCIDENT TYPE:	DATE/TIME REPORTED:
Attempted Murder	04/29/2023 1147 Hours
INCIDENT NUMBER:	LOCATION:
23BU008149	165 Main Street

**NARRATIVE:**

UPDATE, May 15, 2023

On Wednesday, May 10, 2023, Fortune Smith was taken into custody in North Carolina without incident. Further information is pending surrounding the extradition of Smith back to Vermont where he will be arraigned in court for Accessory to 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Murder and Burglary. The Burlington Police Department would like to thank the United States Marshals Service Carolinas Regional Fugitive Task Force.

UPDATE, MAY 8, 2023

Today, Monday, May 8, 2023, the Burlington Police Department and United States Marshals Service made arrests associated with an attempted murder that occurred on Saturday, April 29, 2023. After observing the suspects exit an address on North Street in Burlington, BPD made a traffic stop and arrested Tyrin Smith, 19, for 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Murder (attempted). A 17-year-old juvenile female was also taken into custody. Significant quantities of drugs were recovered from Mr. Smith. Officers subsequently executed a search warrant at the North Street address and recovered additional amounts of drugs.

Since last Saturday's incident, the BPD's investigation has developed probable cause that Mr. Smith—wearing a mask, ski goggles, and gloves—and another person, also masked, made their way to an apartment at 165 Main Street in search of a person with whom they had exchanged adversarial and threatening electronic messages. They climbed a fire escape into the location, traveled across a roof, climbed another fire escape, and entered a hallway. They then pounded on the door of the apartment. When they could not enter in that manner, they physically broke through the wall separating the hallway and the apartment. Tyrin Smith then shot a victim, Aquill Nickson, in the upper chest. Mr. Nickson was not the person with whom Mr. Smith had been exchanging threatening messages. Wounded, Mr. Nickson fled the apartment to the southwest corner of Church Street and Main Street, where he was found by responding officers and personnel from the Burlington Fire Department. As he fled he discarded a large quantity of

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crack cocaine. Mr. Nickson was subsequently arrested for felony drug possession, and, owing to that arrest, is being identified. (It is the normal practice of the BPD not to identify crime victims.) Other individuals fled from the apartment by jumping from a third-story window. Information is preliminary and subject to change.

Detectives interviewed witnesses, canvassed for video, and collected other evidence. That Investigatory work led to their identifying Mr. Smith as the suspect. It is believed that Mr. Smith initially fled the state, but eventually returned. Detectives located him and effected today's arrest. Mr. Smith is being held without bail until arraignment. The juvenile female is being investigated as an accessory after the fact.

Tyrin Smith does not have a Vermont criminal history, but has 36 police contacts in Valcour, and is the suspect in four incidents of burglary/robbery. Aquill Nickson has an extensive criminal history in Pennsylvania, including but not limited to illegal possession of a firearm, robbery, simple and aggravated assaults, drug offenses, terroristic threats, and flight to avoid trial.

The BPD would like to thank the United States Marshals Service, the Milton Police Department, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives for their invaluable assistance in this case.

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

UPDATE, MAY 1, 2023 The injured victim, who was transported to the University of Vermont Medical Center on Saturday, is currently stable but still hospitalized. No additional information is currently available. The investigation into this incident is active and ongoing.

FIRST RELEASE, APRIL 29, 2023

Today, Saturday April 29, 2023, at approximately 1147 hours, dispatchers with the Burlington Police Department received calls of an apparently injured man at the southwest corner of Church St and Main St. Responding BPD officers discovered a male victim, in his 40s, who had apparently been shot in the chest. He was removed to the University of Vermont Medical Center by personnel from the Burlington Fire Department. A Vermont State Police trooper who was nearby responded as well and assisted with scene security; the BPD thanks the VSP for its assistance. Preliminarily, it is believed that the shooting took place in an apartment near the

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location where the victim was found. Information is preliminary and subject to change. This is the second shooting incident the BPD has recorded in 2023.

The investigation into this incident is in its earliest stages. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact the Burlington Police Department at (802) 658-2704. # # #

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