



POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF BURLINGTON

MEDIA RELEASE

| INCIDENT TYPE: | DATE/TIME REPORTED: | |
|---|----------------------------|------------------|
| Reckless Endangerment | 08/05/2023 2033 Hours | |
| Reckless Endangerment | 08/05/2023 1845 Hours | |
| INCIDENT NUMBER: | LOCATION: | |
| 23BU017354 | 100 Block of Church Street | |
| 23BU017347 | 100 Block of Church Street | |
| INVESTIGATOR: | INVESTIGATOR CONTACT: | |
| Detective Kratochvil | (802) 540-2308 | |
| Officer Tenan | (802) 540-2314 | |
| AUTHOR: | APPROVED BY: | |
| Sarah Hernandez Timm | Chief Murad | |
| SUSPECT: | AGE: | SUSPECT ADDRESS: |
| Tajon Lytch | 34 | Winooks, VT |
| N/A | N/A | N/A |
| SUSPECT DISPOSITION: | | |
| Tajon Lytch was cited in association with the second gunfire incident and is expected in court later this week. | | |

NARRATIVE:

On Saturday, August 5, 2023, at approximately 6:45pm, the Burlington Police Department dispatch received reports of gunfire at 184 Church Street. BPD officers responded and found evidence of an exchange of gunfire between or among unknown parties. Officers could not locate any involved parties nor any victims. With only two officers and a trainee on the shift, officers recovered evidence and closed the call so as to be available for other calls for service. The case was referred to the detective services bureau.

Approximately two hours later, at 8:33pm, there was a second report of gunfire from the same address. This time witnesses saw a suspect and evidence suggested that the suspect was still inside the location. Officers cordoned off the location with assistance from officers from the University of Vermont Police Department and a member of the Vermont State Police, who was on extra-duty assignment at the voluntary VSP foot post at Church Street and Main Street. Chief Murad responded from off-duty, as did members of the BPD's detective bureau and the [BPD's Emergency Response Unit \(ERU\)](#) and its [Emergency Response Vehicle](#). Partners with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Chittenden County Gun Violence Task Force responded, as well. The ERU team then conducted a tactical search and clearance of the building.

Information is preliminary and subject to change.

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



**POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF BURLINGTON**

A suspect was arrested in association with the second gunfire incident: Tajon Lytch, 34, of Winooski. Mr. Lytch is known to police for a long history of police involvements. He was cited for reckless endangerment and released. He is expected in court later this week. Two firearms were recovered, along with ballistics evidence.

“We are grateful to partners like the Vermont State Police, the UVM Police, and the ATF,” said Chief of Police Jon Murad. “I’m also grateful to our Emergency Response Unit for the safe, professional way they resolved this incident. But we need additional tools—particularly an appropriate, felony-level charge for reckless endangerment that involves firearms. When it comes to gunfire, particularly exchanges of gunfire, uncooperative participants are the norm. Criminals who shoot at each other in occupied apartment buildings or crowded city streets are not predisposed to working with police. When no one is struck, and no one comes forward as a victim, we’re currently left with only a misdemeanor charge: reckless endangerment. I’m hopeful that the creation of a felony charge for reckless endangerment with a firearm will eventually be passed into law.”

“I commend the many officers who responded to this call and acted swiftly and professionally, putting themselves in harm’s way to ensure the safety of the community,” said Mayor Miro Weinberger. “However, just as we must give officers the training and resources necessary to safely execute a police response as complex and dangerous as this was, we also need to give them the right legal tools to hold perpetrators of gun crimes accountable. It is not acceptable to imperil Burlingtonians and visitors by recklessly and needlessly firing a gun in our City, and is not acceptable that this crime counts as nothing more than a misdemeanor, which is why Chief Murad, State’s Attorney Sarah George, and I called for legislative action last fall. I am grateful that Burlington Representative Gabrielle Stebbins [introduced H.223](#) to address this and continue to urge the legislature to act on it when they return to session in January.”

Both the first and second gunfire incidents remain under investigation.

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

Information is preliminary and subject to change.