



**POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF BURLINGTON**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

INCIDENT TYPE:	DATE/TIME REPORTED:	
Operations	11/03/2023	
INCIDENT NUMBER:	LOCATION:	
23BU020680	93 Walnut Street #6	
INVESTIGATOR:	INVESTIGATOR CONTACT:	
Detective Ellerman	(802) 540-2343	
AUTHOR:	APPROVED BY:	
Sarah Hernandez Timm	Detective Sergeant Tremblay	
SUSPECTS:	AGE:	SUSPECT ADDRESS:
Talbert Hill	43	Philadelphia, PA
Samuel Bennett	44	Philadelphia, PA
SUSPECTS DISPOSITION:		
Hill and Bennett were arrested and will be charged in federal court.		

**NARRATIVE:**

Following a multi-month narcotics investigation into drug distribution activity, the Burlington Police Department executed a federal search warrant on November 3, 2023 at 93 Walnut Street #6, Burlington, VT. The Drug Enforcement Agency and the Vermont State Police assisted in the operation. Talbert Hill and Samuel Bennett were arrested and will be charged in federal court. Quantities of suspected fentanyl, “crack” cocaine, and U.S. currency were seized. The BPD would like to thank the DEA and the VSP for their assistance in the search warrant and apprehension of Hill and Bennett. The BPD would also like to thank the United States Attorney’s Office, District of Vermont for their tremendous work on this case.

Additional details are described in the United States Attorney’s Office, District of Vermont press release, which is included below and can be found at the following link:

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-vt/pr/two-philadelphia-men-arrested-distributing-fentanyl-over-17000-bags-fentanyl-and-almost>

*Information is preliminary and subject to change.*

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**Two Philadelphia Men Arrested for Distributing Fentanyl; Over 17,000 Bags of Fentanyl and Almost 200 Grams of Cocaine Base Seized**

Burlington, Vermont – The Office of the United States Attorney for the District of Vermont announced that Talbert Hill, who is also known as “T,” and Samuel Bennett, who is also known as “Mellow,” both of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, were arrested on Friday, November 3, 2023 in or near Burlington, Vermont. Both men have been charged by criminal complaint and appeared before United States Magistrate Judge Kevin J. Doyle this afternoon.

According to court records, Hill and Bennett are alleged to have distributed fentanyl in and around Burlington over the past few months. The investigation revealed that Hill and Bennett coordinated their activities by using the same cellular phone number to arrange drug sales. Law enforcement surveillance revealed a likely stash house used by Hill and Bennett on Walnut Street in Burlington. Investigators also determined that Bennett was staying at a hotel room in South Burlington. On November 3, 2023, law enforcement arrested Bennett from a car he was operating at the Charlotte, Vermont ferry landing. A search of the vehicle resulted in the seizure of over \$10,000 cash from a suitcase in the trunk of Bennett’s car. Later on November 3, 2023, law enforcement attempted to arrest Hill in Burlington. Hill tried to flee, and discarded suspected fentanyl and cocaine base during his flight. Nevertheless, Hill had fentanyl on him when he was apprehended. At the same time as the arrests, law enforcement executed a federal search warrant on Walnut Street and at an area hotel. In total, agents seized over 17,000 bags of fentanyl (the equivalent of approximately 340 grams) and almost 200 grams of cocaine base.

The United States Attorney’s Office emphasizes that criminal complaints contain only allegations and both Hill and Bennett remain presumed innocent until and unless they are convicted of a crime. Both men face a maximum of 20 years of imprisonment on the charges they currently face.

United States Attorney Nikolas P. Kerest commended the investigatory efforts of the Burlington Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration, and thanked the Vermont State Police for their assistance in apprehending Bennett.

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The prosecutors are Assistant U.S. Attorneys Colin Owyang and Jonathan Ophardt. Hill is represented by Karen R. Shingler, Esq. Bennett is represented by the Office of the Federal Public Defender.

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