



**POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF BURLINGTON**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

INCIDENT TYPE:	DATE/TIME REPORTED:	
Multiple crimes	01/22/2024 1414 Hours	
INCIDENT NUMBER:	LOCATION:	
24BU001568	Elmwood Avenue	
SUSPECT:	AGE:	SUSPECT ADDRESS:
Tyshawn Lee	23	Winooski, VT
SUSPECT DISPOSITION:		
Arrested; specific charges pending		

**UPDATE # 2: January 23, 2024**

Arrestee Tyshawn Lee is expected to be arraigned at 1330 hours today. The affidavit alleges that he “has committed the crimes of Kidnapping (x2). Possession of Destructive Devices (x2). Aggravated Assault, Fourth Degree Arson (x2). Assault of Protected Professional with Bodily Fluids (x3), and Resisting Arrest when he created two Molotov cocktails while holding hostages inside T. Ruggs Tavern, shortly after he held a knife toward an Officer and then fled on foot when they were trying to arrest him. Lee then spat on an officer and two healthcare professionals while he was receiving medical attention at the University of Vermont Medical Center.

Lee’s criminal history record includes 3 Felony Charges, 2 Felony Charges, 15 Misdemeanor Charges, 2 Misdemeanor Convictions, 6 Assaultive Crime Charges, 2 Assaultive Crime Convictions, 1 Assault on Officer Charges, and 1. Dangerous/Deadly Weapon Related Charges.” He was given a deferred three-year sentence for the assaultive crime convictions, with the deferral believed to be predicated on his not committing additional crimes.

If you or someone you know were impacted by this incident, support can be found through BPD’s Crisis, Advocacy, Intervention Programs (CAIP).

- [Community Support Liaisons](#): (802) 540-2395
- Victim Support Specialist: (802) 557-7232

**PRESS RELEASE UPDATE:**

On Monday, January 22, 2024, at approximately 1414 hours, officers with the Burlington Police Department observed a person known to be wanted for arrest, Tyshawn Lee, 23. Mr. Lee was

*Information is preliminary and subject to change.*



POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF BURLINGTON

wanted for the alleged crimes of Violation of Conditions of Release and felony Identity Theft. (On December 27, Mr. Lee was observed allegedly using a debit card that had been stolen from a vehicle the night before. At the time he was under conditions of release from previous court cases.)

An officer confronted Mr. Lee near the intersection of North Champlain Street and Peru Street. The officer informed Mr. Lee he was under arrest. Mr. Lee backed away and produced two cutting instruments, one of which he held to his own neck and one of which he pointed at the officer. Fearful that Mr. Lee would charge him and attempt to cause serious bodily harm, the officer gave hard commands and then drew his firearm. Mr. Lee fled on foot. Multiple officers followed Mr. Lee as he moved through alleys, over fences, and across backyards. Officers ultimately observed Mr. Lee flee into T Rugg's Tavern at Elmwood Avenue and North Street.

The tavern was occupied by a number of patrons, most of whom fled the bar. Two persons, a male hostage and female hostage, were trapped inside as Mr. Lee secured and guarded the doors and barricaded himself inside. Officers established a perimeter and began a critical incident response. This included summoning members of the BPD's Crisis Negotiations Unit (CNU) and our [Emergency Response Unit](#) (ERU), and staging members of the Burlington Fire Department. The BPD was also assisted in controlling the perimeter by officers from the University of Vermont Police Department. A five-hour standoff ensued during which the CNU was in regular contact with Mr. Lee, attempting to obtain a peaceful surrender.

During the initial phase of the standoff, the BPD recommended that school facilities at Sustainability Academy, Integrated Arts Academy, and 20 Allen Street go on lockdown. As the school day ended, Chief Murad and Burlington School District Superintendent Tom Flanagan created a plan for students, parents, and caregivers to get home safely and avoid the scene.

At approximately 1702 hours, the BPD called the Vermont State Police for assistance. Over the next two hours their Tactical Services Unit, under the command of Captain Debra Munson, arrived and mustered. At approximately 1901 hours, the TSU entry team relieved the BPD entry team, which had been in position for nearly five hours. Almost immediately thereafter, at approximately 1916 hours, the female hostage escaped from Mr. Lee and fled the building. The male hostage began to fight Mr. Lee and the TSU team entered the bar. They removed the male hostage and engaged Mr. Lee with less-lethal munitions, a flash-bang distraction device, and a police canine. Mr. Lee was subdued and taken into custody on an array of charges. Police

*Information is preliminary and subject to change.*



**POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF BURLINGTON**

discovered several Molotov cocktails<sup>1</sup> in the bar that Mr. Lee had manufactured, and it appears that Mr. Lee's efforts to use them may have occasioned the hostages' flight and fight. The BFD transported Mr. Lee to the University of Vermont Medical Center for treatment and evaluation.

The BPD thanks the UVM Police Department and the Burlington Fire Department for their assistance. We also express our sincere gratitude to the Vermont State Police, particularly Captain Munson and the TSU, for their expertise and efforts.

Mr. Lee, 23, has more than 110 previous police engagements and has an arrest history for felony domestic assault, aggravated assault, simple assault, driving with license suspended, and vandalism. The charges for this particular incident are still being determined.

Anyone with further information about this crime, or any crime involving Tyshawn Lee, can contact the Burlington Police Department at (802) 658-2704.

**ORIGINAL PRESS RELEASE:**

Subject: BPD Press Release: Barricaded Subject

Sent: Monday, January 22, 2024 15:10

The Burlington Police Department is currently in negotiations with a barricaded subject near Elmwood Avenue and North Street. The schools were placed on lockdown, but students are now being released. People are advised to avoid the area of Elmwood Avenue and North Street.

Additional information to follow.

---

<sup>1</sup> A destructive device that consists of or includes a breakable container including a flammable liquid or compound, and a wick composed of any material that, when ignited, is capable of igniting the flammable liquid or compound, and can be carried or thrown by one individual acting alone.

*Information is preliminary and subject to change.*

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