



POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF BURLINGTON

**MEDIA RELEASE**

INCIDENT TYPE:	DATE/TIME REPORTED:	
Disorderly Conduct/Mental Health	19 February 2024 at 1426 hours	
INCIDENT NUMBER:	LOCATION:	
24BU003684	Park St, Burlington VT	
INVESTIGATOR:	INVESTIGATOR CONTACT:	
Ofc. O'Donnell (#419)	(802) 540-2242	
AUTHOR:	APPROVED BY:	
LT. Michael Henry		
SUSPECT:	AGE:	SUSPECT ADDRESS:
Justin Barber	38	Burlington, VT
SUSPECT DISPOSITION:		
Mr. Barber was taken into custody for disorderly conduct and transported by the Burlington Fire Department to the University of Vermont Medical Center's Emergency Department. Mr. Barber was being evaluated for exposure and mental health.		

***Investigation is still pending and this is preliminary information being released and is subject to change pending new information or leads.***

**NARRATIVE:**

On 19 February 2024, at approximately 1426 hours, the Burlington Police Department responded to assist Street Outreach who was attempting to assist a male experiencing a mental health crisis. The responding Officers were advised that the male was identified as Justin Barber, age 38, was in possession of a knife, had cut off his pants, and was walking northbound on Church St. Mr. Barber was walking up Church St with the knife in his hand with the blade exposed. Officers made several attempts to engage in conversation with Mr. Barber who would not acknowledge the Officers.

Officers followed Mr. Barber from a distance while other Officers obtained more information regarding the circumstances to Mr. Barber's actions. Officers attempted to engage Mr. Barber again, once more information was learned from a mental health professional. A two hour standoff took place in the area of Park St and North St with Mr. Barber being in possession of a knife with blade exposed ignoring Officers commands to drop the knife. The Burlington Police Department's Crisis Negotiation Unit (CNU) was deployed and spoke with Mr. Barber for

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approximately two hours. Mr. Barber showed signs of hypothermia after being exposed to the cold temperature. Mr. Barber started to advance on Officers as he was given hard commands to stop. Officers deployed less-lethal munitions and Mr. Barber discarded the open bladed knife he had in his hand. Mr. Barber was taken into custody and immediately provided medical aid for exposure by the Burlington Fire Department who was on scene standing by to deploy.

During this incident, BPD recommended that school facilities in the area go on lockdown. Mr. Barber was the subject of a similar incident on 22 March 2023 where Officers deployed less-lethal munitions after Mr. Barber advanced at Officers with a knife.

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

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