



**POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF BURLINGTON**

MEDIA RELEASE

INCIDENT TYPE:	DATE/TIME REPORTED:
Arson	04/05/2024 1045 hrs
INCIDENT NUMBER:	LOCATION:
24BU006840	1 Church Street
INVESTIGATOR:	INVESTIGATOR CONTACT:
Detective Corporal Eric Kratochvil	(802) 658-2308

NARRATIVE:

On April 5, 2024, at approximately 10:45am, first responders from the Burlington Fire Department (BFD) and the Burlington Police Department (BPD) responded to an arson incident on the 3rd floor of 1 Church Street.

Investigation revealed that an unknown male subject entered the vestibule of the Office of United States Senator Bernard Sanders. The male sprayed an apparent accelerant on the entrance door to Senator Sanders's offices. He then lit the accelerant and fled. A significant fire engulfed the door and part of the vestibule, impeding the egress of staff members who were working in the office and endangering their lives. The sprinkler system then engaged and largely extinguished the fire, as confirmed by the BFD. Both the BFD and BPD evacuated the Senator's office and surrounding offices. The Senator was not present at the time of this incident.

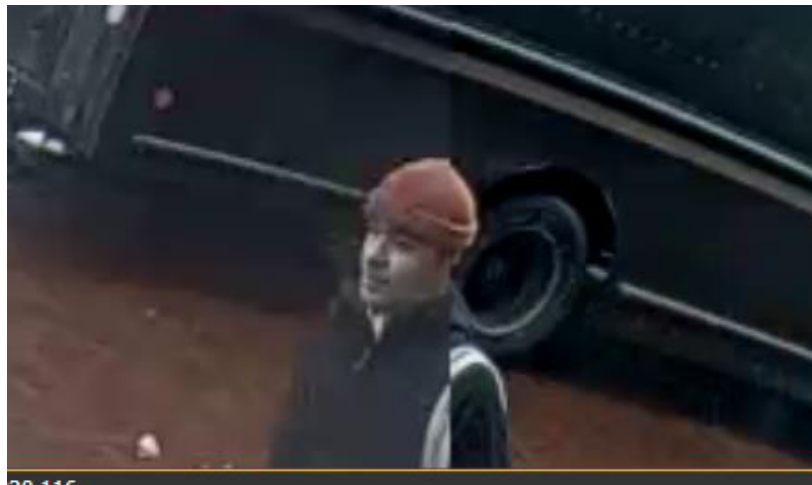
Thankfully, no one is known to have been physically injured by this crime. Along with the fire damage to Senator Sanders's door and vestibule, water from the sprinkler systems caused significant damage to that space and other areas of the building. The suspect is currently unapprehended and no motive is currently known.

In addition to the BPD and the BFD, others responded to the scene, including the Burlington Fire Marshal's office and the Vermont State Police (VSP). The Burlington Fire Marshal's office deemed the fire incendiary in nature. Investigators with the VSP's Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit also made a determination of arson, and the investigation now falls to the BPD's Detective Services Bureau. The BPD has also liaised with Senator Sanders's team, the Capitol Police, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Vermont. Mayor Emma Mulvaney-Stanak and her office have been apprised and have communicated with the Senator's office, as well.

Information is preliminary and subject to change.

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

The Burlington Police Department is asking the public for assistance in identifying the suspect in this incident. A photo of the suspect is provided below. Anyone with information regarding the identity of the individual pictured below is asked to contact the Burlington Police Department at (802) 658-2704.



Information is preliminary and subject to change.
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INITIAL PRESS RELEASE



Burlington Fire Department

136 South Winooski Avenue
Burlington, Vermont 05401-8378
(802) 864-4554 • (802) 658-2700 (TTY)
Business Fax (802) 864-5945 • Central Station Fax (802) 865-5387



MEDIA RELEASE

INCIDENT TYPE:	DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT:
Fire	April 05, 2024 @ 10:44 a.m.
INCIDENT NUMBER:	LOCATION:
2024-2589	1 Church Street
AUTHOR:	CONTACT #:
Michael LaChance – Fire Chief	802-864-4553

NARRATIVE:

The Burlington Fire Department was dispatched to a reported fire on the 3rd floor of 1 Church Street, The Masonic Temple. Crews arrived to find the sprinkler system and fire alarms activated and a fire in the vestibule between the elevator and the entrance door to Senator Bernard Sanders' office.

The fire was extinguished, and the Senator's office and surrounding offices were searched and cleared of occupants. No injuries were reported. The door to the Senator's office sustained moderate fire damage, and the third floor and floors below sustained significant water damage. Fire crews deployed salvage covers on the floors below to protect items from water.

The Burlington Fire Marshal's office, Burlington Police Department, and Vermont State Police are on scene, and an investigation is being conducted.

If anyone has information regarding this incident, please contact the Burlington Fire Marshal's office at 802-864-5577 or bfdfiremarshal@burlingtonvt.gov.

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