



POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF BURLINGTON

MEDIA RELEASE

June 6, 2024

The Burlington Police Department is aware of a social media posting concerning a presentation between the Burlington High School (BHS) Year End Studies (YES) Program and the BPD. It is our understanding that the original social media post was made by a student who was not in attendance for the presentation but who may have known someone who attended and was reportedly upset.

First and foremost, the Burlington Police Department apologizes to any students in attendance who were upset by the specific scenario and crime scene portion of the presentation. The role-playing scenario only involved three department personnel simulating a robbery scenario and was not directed at any students or faculty.

We believe that the criminal justice program at BHS and Burlington Technical Center is a critical partner, and that our city's young people are one of our most important constituencies, and so the BPD endeavored to have joint coordination and clear communication before this classroom experience.

On 29 April 2024, Burlington School District staff associated with the YES program contacted the BPD about conducting another presentation after a previous successful presentation between the police department and the BHS Science in Society program in the fall of 2023.

Follow up communication between YES program staff and members of the BPD took place as the event was being coordinated. On 23 May 2024, police department staff and Yes Program staff communicated about the details of the scenarios, including saying that the training incident would involve "using fake firearms in a mock shooting. Do you think that sort of incident would be ok for your group of students? It is about as real life as you can get, and is certainly exactly the sort of thing we deal with most frequently." YES Program staff responded, "I think these students will be fine with this simulation. We will give a heads up to parents and students."

Because the BPD places the utmost importance on serving and learning from our community, the BPD supervisor involved with the presentation has already reached out to the associated YES

Information is preliminary and subject to change.

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Program staff members in order to discuss the matter further. The BPD will be meeting with BSD students and staff tomorrow to discuss the presentation and its impact. We hope that this can be a reflective growth opportunity for all parties.

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