



POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF BURLINGTON

MEDIA RELEASE

Please see the attached press release from the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Vermont.

During the evening hours of July 2, 2022, officers with the Burlington Police Department responded to a call for service alleging that multiple gunshots had been fired by a male walking along North Avenue. Responding officers located ballistic evidence and Leon Delima was identified and apprehended. The suspected firearm was located by a community member several days later in the area and turned over to BPD. Follow-up investigation with our partners at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) was able to connect the recovered firearm to the shooting that Delima was involved in. The case was then prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office, and Delima was sentenced on June 25, 2024.

The Burlington Police Department is extremely grateful for the United States Attorney Office's partnership. We are also grateful for the partnership of ATF, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Criminal Investigation (IRS-CI). A tremendous amount of work was done and we are continuously thankful to our partners for this collaboration.

Information is preliminary and subject to change.

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



POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF BURLINGTON



THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT of JUSTICE

United States Attorney's Office
District of Vermont

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 26, 2024
justice.gov/usao-vt | [@USAO_VT](https://twitter.com/USAO_VT)

United States Courthouse and Federal Building
Post Office Box 570, Burlington, VT 05402
Tel: (802) 951-6725

Chittenden County Man Sentenced to 46 Months in Fraud and Gun Cases

Burlington, Vermont – The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Vermont stated that on June 25, 2024, Leon Delima, 35, of Burlington and South Burlington, Vermont, was sentenced by United States District Judge Christina Reiss to a term of 46 months in prison, to be followed by a 3-year term of supervised release. Delima previously pleaded guilty in two separate federal cases to wire fraud and false statements in connection with his 2021 false applications for COVID relief funds and his 2022 possession of a firearm as a convicted felon. He is also required to pay over \$20,000.00 in restitution to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

According to court records, between April and July 2021, Delima devised a scheme to obtain COVID relief funds to which he was not entitled by submitting false applications seeking Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) from the SBA. Delima successfully obtained a \$17,833.00 PPP loan which he spent over the course of approximately two weeks on consumer goods, life expenses, and other non-business items. Having exhausted the initial loan, he then sought an additional \$350,000.00 EIDL, which was denied.

Approximately a year later, on July 2, 2022, Delima, who had previously been convicted of a felony offense and was precluded from possessing firearms under federal law, discharged a .40 caliber pistol as he walked along North Avenue in Burlington, Vermont. Delima knew the firearm had been stolen. He was also in possession of over 35 grams of cocaine at the time he fired the gun. He threw the gun aside before law enforcement could apprehend him. The gun was recovered approximately two weeks later and linked back to the shooting incident using ATF technology.

United States Attorney Nikolas P. Kerest praised the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation (IRS-CI), and the Burlington Police Department for their collaboration and excellent work investigating Leon Delima's many crimes. "Utilizing technology is a key part of ATF's strategy to identify and prosecute individuals who commit violent crimes," said Special Agent in Charge James M. Ferguson of the ATF Boston Field Division. "The combination of NIBIN and good police work has resulted in the arrest and conviction of a convicted felon who illegally possessed a firearm and crack cocaine."

Information is preliminary and subject to change.

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



POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF BURLINGTON

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Eugenia A. P. Cowles. Delima was represented by Assistant Federal Public Defender Sara M. Puls.

This case was made possible by investigative leads generated from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' (ATF) National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN). NIBIN is the only national network that allows for the capture and comparison of ballistic evidence to aid in solving and preventing violent crimes involving firearms. NIBIN is a proven investigative and intelligence tool that can link firearms from multiple crime scenes, allowing law enforcement to quickly disrupt shooting cycles. For more information on NIBIN, visit <https://www.atf.gov/firearms/national-integrated-ballisticinformation-network-nibin>.

Addressing pandemic-related fraud is a priority of United States Attorney Nikolas P. Kerest and of the Department of Justice. For information on the Department's response to the pandemic, please visit <https://www.justice.gov/coronavirus>. Anyone with information about allegations of attempted fraud involving COVID-19 can report it by calling the Department of Justice's National Center for Disaster Fraud (NCDF) Hotline at 866-720-5721 or via the NCDF Web Complaint Form at: <https://www.justice.gov/disaster-fraud/ncdf-disaster-complaint-form>.

This case is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), a program bringing together all levels of law enforcement and the communities they serve to reduce violent crime and gun violence, and to make our neighborhoods safer for everyone. On May 26, 2021, the Department launched a violent crime reduction strategy strengthening PSN based on these core principles: fostering trust and legitimacy in our communities, supporting community-based organizations that help prevent violence from occurring in the first place, setting focused and strategic enforcement priorities, and measuring the results. For more information about Project Safe Neighborhoods, please visit [Justice.gov/PSN](https://www.justice.gov/PSN).

Information is preliminary and subject to change.