



POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF BURLINGTON

MEDIA RELEASE

July 1, 2024

Over the weekend, the Burlington Police Department recorded and responded to a high volume of incidents. From Friday, June 28, 2024 through noon on Monday, July 1, 2024, there were approximately 301 incidents.

Currently, the BPD has 26 officers available for patrol spread across three shifts: days, evenings, and midnights. Day and evening shifts typically have three to five patrol officers assigned for the entirety of the city. Midnights typically have two patrol officers.

Here is a summary of some, not all, of the incidents our police officers responded to over the weekend.

ELUDING POLICE (24BU014094)

The press release for this incident can be viewed on our webpage at the following link:
<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/Press/multiple-crimes-4>

ACCIDENT – INJURY TO PERSON(S) (24BU014116)

On June 28, 2024, at approximately 5:43pm, officers with the Burlington Police Department responded to a report of a crash with injury near Elmwood Avenue and Pearl Street.

ROBBERY (24BU014121) & TRAFFIC (24BU014131)

At approximately 6:47pm, officers with the BPD responded to a report of a robbery at gunpoint near Saint Louis Street. Investigation revealed an individual was assaulted and robbed.

Later that evening around 9:42pm, officers stopped a vehicle of interest and identified people of interest in the robbery. The individuals – four juveniles, some of them known to BPD for previous police encounters, including incidents involving guns and other weapons – have been released at this time. The investigation remains ongoing.

Information is preliminary and subject to change.

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ORDINANCE VIOLATION (24BU014128)

At approximately 8:46pm, officers with the BPD were dispatched to assist the Burlington Fire Department with an aggressive male who was refusing to extinguish an unlawful open fire. When BPD arrived on scene, the male was informed he would be issued a ticket per city ordinance – outside fires open or contained are not authorized unless the resident has a permit.

DISTURBANCE / LEWD & LASCIVIOUS (24BU014148)

On June 29, 2024, at approximately 2:16am, officers witnessed and responded to an altercation on Church Street. The male in the altercation was later identified as Farhan Hassan, 24, of Colchester. Officers informed Hassan he was being detained, but Hassan attempted to leave the scene. Hassan was instructed multiple times by officers he was being detained, but Hassan resisted and pushed officers. Two officers sustained physical injuries owing to Hassan's resistance, which officers used OC spray to overcome.

Investigation revealed the altercation began because Hassan grabbed two females in a lewd and lascivious manner. Despite the sexually based assault and the injury of the two officers, a judge ordered Hassan be released on a citation.

A criminal history check of Hassan shows 14 misdemeanor charges and a felony charge.

SUSPICIOUS EVENT (24BU014155)

At approximately 5:00am, officers with the BPD responded to a report from a female caller, hiding in her own bathroom, stating that an unknown male was in her apartment on Morse Place. Officers responded and took the male into custody. Lawful, minimal physical force was used to overcome the male's resistance. Investigation revealed the male and another resident in the apartment other than the caller knew one another. The male was released.

ATTEMPTED BURGLARY (24BU014156)

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At approximately 5:35am, officers with the BPD responded to a report that a male was trying to break into an individual's apartment. The male was later identified as Jason Casey, 40, of Colchester. Officers located Casey and he was taken into custody. Casey was lodged on \$500 bail.

Casey has the following criminal history in the State of Vermont: 4 felony charges, 38 misdemeanor charges with 5 convictions, 13 failures to appear, and 5 prior unlawful trespass charges and 1 unlawful trespass to an occupied dwelling charge.

In court today, on July 1, 2024, Casey was given the following conditions: must come to court when told, must provide address and phone number, and must not go to specific address.

Multiple evening shift officers from Friday night evening shift were extended into the midnight shift owing to call volume.

TRESPASS (24BU014161)

At approximately 9:31am, officers with the BPD, were on a routine presence patrol in downtown Burlington when an officer observed Jared Gallagher, 42, of Burlington, at the Fletcher Free Library. Gallagher is known to officers from multiple previous law enforcement encounters. Gallagher was taken into custody for violating a trespass notice for the library. Gallagher was processed and cited at the BPD.

ARREST ON WARRANT (24BU014178)

At approximately 1:43pm, officers with the BPD, encountered Shauna Francis, 33, of Burlington. Dispatch advised Francis had three active warrants. Francis was taken into custody, transported to the BPD for processing, and lodged at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility.

In court today, on July 1, 2024, Francis did not show for court. Chittenden Criminal will be sending out a warrant for \$200. Washington City will be issuing a cite and release warrant.

DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE (24BU014192)

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At approximately 5:52pm, officers with the BPD responded to a call reporting a domestic disturbance near South Willard Street. This investigation is ongoing.

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT (24BU014226)

At approximately 4:11am, officers with the BPD responded to a report of an assault on Rose Street. Investigation revealed Malcolm Sovey, 21, of Burlington, struck the victim in the face, while in possession of a firearm. Sovey was taken into custody and lodged.

A review of Sovey's criminal history shows 8 violation of court orders or conditions charges, 4 felony charges with 1 conviction, 16 misdemeanor charges with 4 convictions, 4 assaultive crime charges with 2 convictions, and 1 assault on officer charge. In March 2024, he was arrested for violating conditions of release and aggravated assault. While in custody at the police department he caused damage to the facility, kicking out sheetrock, and assaulted two officers via bodily fluid. In October 2023, he fled from Chittenden County deputies in a stolen car, which he crashed in Burlington. He fled on foot and BPD officers joined the foot pursuit. Sovey head-butted an officer, knocking out teeth and necessitating dental surgery and placing the officer on limited duty for several weeks. Sovey is currently under supervised release with Burlington Probation and Parole.

In court today, on July 1, 2024, Sovey was held without bail for violation of parole and keeping \$10,000 bail in place for the aggravated assault charge. Sovey was also given the following conditions: must come to court when told, must provide address and phone number, no dangerous weapons, and no contact with victim.

DOMESTIC ASSAULT (24BU014227)

At approximately 7:16am, officers with the BPD responded to a report of assault. Investigation revealed Justin Gaboriault, 36, of Burlington, punched an individual in the face and threatened the individual with a knife in the area of Church Street and Main Street. Gaboriault was taken into custody, transported to the BPD, and lodged on \$1500 bail.

In court today, on July 1, 2024, Gaboriault was held without bail and given conditions to have no contact with victim.

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DOMESTIC ASSAULT (24BU014235)

At approximately 10:29am, officers with the BPD responded to a report of domestic violence. Investigation revealed Najee McDowell, 31, of Burlington, assaulted an individual. Responding officers were unable to locate McDowell.

McDowell has the following criminal history in the State of Vermont: 1 felony charge, 2 misdemeanor charges with 1 conviction, and 1 prior failure to appear.

This morning, on July 1, 2024, officers with the BPD located McDowell and took him into custody.

In court today, on July 1, 2024, McDowell was released with the following conditions: must come to court when told, must provide address and phone number, and no contact with victims.

TRESPASS (24BU014239)

At approximately 10:59am, officers with the BPD responded to a report of trespass on the 200 block of Saint Paul Street. Subsequently, Morgan Gillespie, 28, of Burlington, was trespassed.

TRESPASS (24BU014245)

At approximately 1:27pm, officers with the BPD were dispatched to Pearl Street for a report of a male entering a bus without paying. The male was later identified as Christian Bukeyeneza, 21, of Burlington. Bukeyeneza was refusing to get off the bus. Upon arrival, officers requested Bukeyeneza to exit the bus – Bukeyeneza complied. Bukeyeneza was trespassed from the bus.

One lieutenant and three officers were on for the Sunday day shift. There was never more than one officer available throughout the shift.

TRESPASS (24BU014278)

At approximately 9:28pm, officers with the BPD responded to a report of a male trespassing and being aggressive on South Winooski Avenue. The male was later identified as Christian Bukeyeneza. Officers were unable to locate Bukeyeneza.

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SUSPICIOUS EVENT (24BU014287)

On July 1, 2024, at approximately 12:30am, officers responded to a report of a possible assault. At this time, there is insufficient evidence or information to proceed with any investigation.

ANIMAL PROBLEM (24BU014303)

At approximately 9:30am, the BPD received a report from a caller who stated she had seen two unleashed dogs about two hours ago. A Community Service Officer (CSO) responded but could not locate the animals.

ARREST ON WARRANT (24BU014313)

At approximately 10:42am, officers encountered Thomas Lapine, 37, near Battery Park and confirmed that he had three in-state arrest warrants. Lapine was arrested, processed, and transported to court.

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

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