



**POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF BURLINGTON**

MEDIA RELEASE

INCIDENT TYPE:	DATE/TIME REPORTED:
Reckless Endangerment	05/23/2023 0055 Hours
INCIDENT NUMBER:	LOCATION:
23BU010131	Riverside Avenue
INVESTIGATOR:	INVESTIGATOR CONTACT:
Detective Corporal Beal Detective Corporal Byrne	(802) 540-2364 (802) 540-2345

UPDATE #3: July 29, 2024

On July 25, 2024, officers with the South Burlington Police Department recognized a male they knew to be John Austin, who was wanted for Aggravated Assault with a Weapon stemming from a Burlington Police incident on May 23, 2023. During that incident, investigation revealed that Austin was involved in an exchange of gunfire on Riverside Avenue. After being spotted by South Burlington Police on July 25, 2024, Austin fled from police on foot and was believed to have entered a swampy wooded area next to I-89. Burlington Police responded to assist with perimeter and apprehension of Austin, who was taken into custody once located. Austin was arraigned on the warrant on the morning of July 26, 2024 and ordered to be held without bail.

The Burlington Police Department would like to thank the South Burlington Police Department for their diligent police work in locating and pursuing Austin, which ultimately led to his arrest. The BPD would also like to thank other responding agencies to include UVM Police Services, Vermont State Police, Chittenden County Sheriff's Office, Milton Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. Finally, we would like to thank the Chittenden County State's Attorney's Office for continuing to partner with us to prioritize cases that have involved gunfire.

UPDATE #2: July 11, 2024

On July 11, 2024, Jwan Austin was resolved of several cases he was involved in – this closes two gunfire cases: a shootout in the Old North End (23BU010131, 05/23/2023) and a discharge at College and South Winooski (23BU016635, 07/29/2023). Austin pled guilty to Reckless Endangerment and to felony cocaine possession – Austin was released on credit for time served and sentenced to 5 years probation.

Information is preliminary and subject to change.



POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF BURLINGTON

The Burlington Police Department is extremely grateful for the State's Attorneys Office's partnership. A tremendous amount of work was done and we are continuously thankful for this collaboration.

Chief Murad provided the following statement:

The success the Burlington Police Department has had with diminishing gunfire since the 2022 spike stems from great investigations, good arrests, and strong prosecutions. But we would be better off with longer terms of incarceration, and in this case, a person involved in multiple gunfire incidents is getting a suspended sentence. Our police department continues to support the creation of a felony Reckless Endangerment charge when a firearm is discharged in a reckless manner.

UPDATE: May 3, 2024

On March 19, 2024, Walter Jones, 28, of Springfield, Massachusetts, was arrested on multiple unrelated warrants in Massachusetts. Jones is a person of interest for the reckless endangerment incident on May 23, 2023. Jones is waiting to be extradited to Vermont. Jones was previously arrested and released for a shooting in Burlington on July 31, 2021, incident [21BU0011916](#).

On April 26, 2024, investigators with the Burlington Police Department arrested Jwan Austin, 27, of Detroit, Michigan, following an investigation into the reckless endangerment incident on May 23, 2023 on Riverside Avenue. Investigation revealed Austin engaged in an exchange of gunfire.

A review of Austin's criminal history reveals 1 Failure to Appear, arrests out of Vermont for Cocaine Possession, two active arrest warrants for Cocaine Possession and Reckless Endangerment, drug charges out of the Burlington Drug Enforcement Administration office, and a criminal history out of Michigan for traffic offenses, operating a vehicle with a suspended license, possession of stolen property, assault, malicious destruction of personal property, domestic violence, and assault with a dangerous weapon.

NARRATIVE:

Information is preliminary and subject to change.



POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF BURLINGTON

On May 23, 2023 at approximately 12:55am, officers from the Burlington Police Department were dispatched to Riverside Avenue following multiple calls of gunshots fired.

Officers responded and located evidence of buildings and properties being struck by rounds. Currently, the BPD does not believe anyone was injured. A gas line was struck by a bullet and was actively leaking gas. Officers evacuated the building and streets were blocked off. The Burlington Fire Department arrived to shut off the gas and Vermont Gas responded to fix the gas line.

No suspects have been taken into custody. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact the Burlington Police Department at (802) 658-2704.

Information is preliminary and subject to change.

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