

**Community Impact Teams – Drug Prevention, Treatment, and Enforcement
Multi-Agency Enforcement & Prevention Efforts Announced
April 15, 2013**

Today's gathering of law enforcement and service executives is to announce to our respective communities the efforts underway on your behalf. We also gather to send a clear and concise message to those who are fraying the fabric of our communities by trafficking narcotics and being involved in felony level crime. That message is simple. Vermonters have a low tolerance for crime. If you continue to deal drugs on our streets and in our neighborhoods and/or to be involved in crime that harms our communities we will use every available resource – led by the Office of the United States Attorney and our Federal law enforcement partners – to swiftly and surely bring you to justice.

Beginning in the fall of 2012 Federal, State, and local law enforcement began a set of renewed efforts in response to emerging trends in the drug market and crime patterns in northern Vermont. Multi-agency collaboration is a cornerstone of law enforcement operations throughout Vermont. Building on that foundation, agencies in Chittenden County began operating using a methodology dubbed Community Impact Teams (CIT), which has become a key part of the crime fighting strategy.

Community Impact Teams refers to ongoing collaborative efforts to share information, target key offenders, and work with a variety of community stakeholders to recognize trends, prevent crime, and respond to problems using a three pronged approach of deter – disrupt – and dismantle. Among the key strategies used so far and to be deployed during the spring of 2013 are:

- Working with youth centers, schools, and others to enhance our crime prevention and educational efforts.
- Holding regular meetings among participating agencies and leverage technology to identify key repetitive offenders and crime trends.
- Targeting key offenders – including repeat offenders, violent criminals, and those dealing drugs in our neighborhoods - for robust enforcement and prosecution efforts.
- Targeting key locations where crime and drug dealing occur for extra patrols and expanded criminal interdiction efforts.
- Targeting key modes of transportation known to be havens for those trafficking narcotics.
- Expanding the use of foot patrols, traffic stops, use of drug sniffing dogs, and high visibility patrols in key locations.
- Advocating for swift, open access to drug treatment programs for those suffering from addiction.
- Exploring with neighborhoods the renewed use of “neighborhood watch”/”eyes and ears” programs in Burlington.

These efforts will continue and expand as spring and summer approach. We are actively engaged with our communities and neighborhoods and will use every available resource to ensure robust detection, investigation, and prosecution of drug dealers and violent crime. If you bring drugs into Vermont from out of State the full resources of the Federal justice system will be brought to bear.

Anyone with information about drug trafficking is urged to contact your local police department or use the Burlington Police Drug Tip Line at 802-540-2420. To report general crime tips call local police or Crimestoppers at 802-864-6666. Valuable information may result in substantial cash rewards.

For more information on these efforts you can subscribe to updates via NIXLE by visiting www.bpdvt.org or by contacting your local law enforcement agency.

A partial list of participating agencies is below

United States Attorney's Office – Tristram Coffin, United States Attorney
U.S. Marshal's Service – David E. Demag, U.S. Marshal
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms
Drug Enforcement Administration
Federal Bureau of Investigation
ICE Homeland Security Investigations
U.S. Border Patrol

Burlington Police
Chittenden County Sheriff's Office
Chittenden County State's Attorney's Office
Colchester Police
Essex Police
Milton Police
Richmond Police
South Burlington Police
University of Vermont Police
Vermont Attorney General's Office
Vermont State Police
Winooski Police

Boys and Girls Club of Burlington – Executive Director Mary Alice McKenzie
Spectrum Youth Services – Executive Director Mark Redmond
HowardCenter – Director of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Programs Bob Bick

Also in attendance today
Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger
Diane Derby from the Office of Senator Patrick Leahy