



POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF BURLINGTON

MEDIA RELEASE

INCIDENT TYPE:		DATE/TIME REPORTED:	
Burglary		08/15/2023 1605 Hours	
INCIDENT NUMBER:		LOCATION:	
23BU018302		Killarney Drive	
SUSPECT:		AGE:	SUSPECT ADDRESS:
Harold Ryan		55	Georgia, VT
SUSPECT DISPOSITION:			
Burglary			

NARRATIVE:

On August 15, 2023, at approximately 1605 hours, the Burlington Police Department's dispatch center received a call reporting a possible burglary. A homeowner advised that, via a remote security camera, she had seen a male suspect unlawfully enter her residence.

Officers responded, and, upon arrival, heard movement inside the house. They received access from the homeowner and performed a security sweep. During that sweep, officers located the male suspect, Harold Ryan, 55, of Georgia, VT, who was known to the homeowner but had no permission to be in the residence. He had barricaded himself in a semi-enclosed space within the garage, hidden from officers. He made statements that he would not come out.

Officers withdrew from the interior space and members of the BPD's Crisis Negotiations Team began negotiations. Killarney Drive was closed to vehicle and pedestrian traffic and adjacent homes were evacuated. During the negotiations, Mr. Ryan remained hidden from and noncompliant with officers. He stated that he expected to die. He admitted to possessing a knife but denied having any other weapons.

Because the incident occurred just before the BPD's shift change, the department was able use personnel from both the day shift and evening shift, as well the two officers normally assigned to the Church Street Marketplace detail. Additionally, off-duty members of the [Emergency Response Unit \(ERU\)](#) were called in to use the tools on the [Emergency Response Vehicle \(ERV\)](#). Partners from the Burlington Fire Department also responded.

Information is preliminary and subject to change.

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At approximately 1933 hours, negotiators pulled back from the garage and transitioned to a bullhorn to keep talking to Mr. Ryan as ERU officers inside the residence used a drill to deploy an oleoresin capsicum vapor, similar to the OC spray officers carry, into the space in the garage where Mr. Ryan was barricaded. At approximately 1935 hours, a gunshot was heard from inside the garage. Officers entered the space and found Mr. Ryan deceased from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. Police recovered a firearm that Mr. Ryan had apparently brought to the scene.

“The mission of the police is to keep people safe,” said Chief of Police Jon Murad. “That means everyone: victims, bystanders, officers, suspects. Last night’s ending was not the outcome anyone sought. I offer sympathy to the family whose home was invaded and who now deal with the aftermath of this terrible act; the BPD’s [community support liaisons](#) and the City’s victim’s advocate have connected with them to offer assistance. I offer sympathy, too, to the neighbors whose lives were disrupted by a frightening and tragic experience. I have already commended and checked in on the officers involved, particularly our negotiator, who worked for hours to develop a rapport with the suspect and obtain a peaceful resolution. Despite how much we try, it’s not always up to us, because the suspect has the final say, and that can be hard on negotiators. Lastly, I offer condolences to Mr. Ryan’s family and friends.”

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

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