



**POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF BURLINGTON**

**Press Release  
March 26, 2019**

**BPD officers respond to 911 call by adolescent re: Secret Service encounter**

On March 25<sup>th</sup>, at about 5:40 PM, special agents of the United States Secret Service were performing their official duties on a residential street in Burlington. Agents state that while on the street, they engaged with an adolescent male, 16, identifying themselves as federal officers. The adolescent had exited a residence of interest to them, and the agents state they conducted a frisk of his person to be sure he was not armed with a weapon.

After this interaction, the adolescent called 911 to report to the Burlington Police Department that two suspects had illegally frisked him and were attempting to illegally enter his home. Knowing that the same street address provided by the adolescent male caller was the site of a March 3<sup>rd</sup> 911 call of three armed men attempting to force entry, several Burlington Officers responded quickly, with lights and sirens.

Upon arrival, officers confirmed the identity of the two Secret Service Agents, and ascertained that they were performing their official duties. Based on his preliminary knowledge of the work of the Secret Service in Burlington, a supervisor refuted the adolescent's claim that his encounter with the agents was caused by racial bias. Burlington police left the scene without taking any type of enforcement action. Shortly afterwards, the adolescent posted a video of his reflections on the encounter to Facebook, where he was critical of the BPD's response and stated he felt let down.

"Many of our officers have known this young man since he was a toddler," said Brandon del Pozo, Chief of Police. "He has no negative history with the police. He is growing up in an extremely challenging environment, and sympathetic officers have tried to help him when possible and to look out for his best interests. It is clear he feels let down by our response last night, and we take that concern seriously. Our officers responded to a call for help rapidly and fairly and, by the adolescent's own statements in his video, respectfully. We are continuing to meet with him and members of his family to ensure they understand both our responsibilities and their limits."

The Burlington Police Department does not interfere with special agents of the federal government performing their official duties. It does not have the authority to investigate their conduct. We are also not in a position to render public opinions about their work, and officers did not witness the interaction between the Secret Service and the adolescent prior to officers' arrival.

Any further questions should be directed to the United States Secret Service.

Sincerely,  
Brandon del Pozo  
Chief of Police  
Burlington, Vermont