



**POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF BURLINGTON**

MEDIA RELEASE

INCIDENT TYPE:	DATE/TIME REPORTED:	
Assault and Robbery; Unlawful Restraint	07/10/2019 0023 Hours	
INCIDENT NUMBER:	LOCATION:	
19BU014473	Church Street & College Street	
INVESTIGATOR:	INVESTIGATOR CONTACT:	
Ofc Palmateer	540-2271	
AUTHOR:	APPROVED BY:	
Sgt Brownell	DC Murad	
SUSPECT:	AGE:	SUSPECT ADDRESS:
John R. Brown	42	Winooski
SUSPECT DISPOSITION:		
Arrested and lodged; \$50,000 bail		

NARRATIVE:

Just after midnight on Wednesday, July 10, 2019, a male suspect approached another male seated on a bench on Church Street near the intersection of College Street. The male suspect, later identified as John R. Brown, 42, sat down and asked the other male for a cigarette. He then allegedly produced and opened a folding knife and made multiple gestures with the weapon, including holding it against the victim's neck. During the encounter Mr. Brown allegedly stated "I'm going to take your life," and "I'm going to take everything." The suspect took \$23 dollars from the victim and walked away.

Officers responded to calls for help. The victim described the suspect as having multiple prominent tattoos, particularly on his neck and a swastika on his calf. Officers were able to identify the suspect as Mr. Brown, whom they had encountered earlier in the night following reports that Mr. Brown was trying to instigate fights on Main Street. Officers have addressed five incidents involving Mr. Brown in the past week.

Officers canvassed for the suspect and an officer located Mr. Brown walking north on South Winooski Ave. When the officer called out to Mr. Brown and attempted to stop him, Mr. Brown turned on him while holding the open knife. The officer drew and pointed his firearm and ordered Mr. Brown to the ground. Mr. Brown took two slow steps toward the officer while



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holding the open knife and looking at him but then threw the knife to the ground and lay on his stomach. Other officers joined the first officer on scene and took the suspect into custody.

Mr. Brown was charged with Assault and Robbery and 1st Degree Unlawful Restraint and was lodged on \$50,000 bail by Judge Griffin in anticipation of arraignment. He has a history of 12 failures to appear in the state of Vermont, and has been charged with assaultive crimes ten times in Vermont. He has multiple past charges in Idaho and Utah, including felony assault with a deadly weapon in Idaho in 2011.

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

