



**POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF BURLINGTON**

MEDIA RELEASE

INCIDENT TYPE:	DATE/TIME REPORTED:	
Residential Burglary	January 29, 2020 at 1604 hours	
INCIDENT NUMBER:	LOCATION:	
20BU002062	Residence on Colchester Avenue	
INVESTIGATOR:	INVESTIGATOR CONTACT:	
Street Crimes Unit: Officer Gregory Short (Case Officer) Officer Zachary Beal (Assisting Officer)	658-2704	
AUTHOR:	APPROVED BY:	
Sergeant My T. Nguyen	DC Murad	
SUSPECT:	AGE:	SUSPECT ADDRESS:
Shawna J. Hosmer	32	Burlington, VT

NARRATIVE:

On January 29, 2020, at approximately 1604 hours, Burlington Police responded to an apartment on Colchester Avenue for a late reported burglary. A female victim reported to police that her purse was stolen from inside the apartment. The victim later discovered multiple fraudulent charges on her credit and debit card at various locations in Williston, Colchester and Berlin, VT.

Prior to this burglary report, Burlington police had received an earlier report of a suspicious incident on January 21, 2020. A female resident of another address on Colchester Avenue reported that a female stranger walked into her apartment. Upon being confronted, the female suspect left the scene. Based on the description and modus operandi of this incident, investigators believed that the female suspect could possibly be Shawna Hosmer.

For a variety of investigatory reasons, including the proximity of the two locations on Colchester Avenue and the suspect's modus operandi, investigators believed the incidents may potentially be connected. Other evidence, including the fact that the fraudulent use of the credit card had taken place in Berlin, which is on Ms. Hosmer's travel route between her family in the Randolph area and Burlington, led investigators to believe that Ms. Hosmer was likely a suspect in the burglary.

Investigators canvassed for video near the location of the burglary, and also obtained video at locations where the fraudulent charges took place. The same female wearing the same jacket was observed at each location in Williston, Colchester, and Berlin. Police were subsequently able to identify the suspect as Ms. Hosmer. Ms. Hosmer could also be seen on video at a location approximately 250 feet away from the scene of the burglary, approximately 29 minutes prior to

Information is preliminary and subject to change.



POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF BURLINGTON

the first fraudulent card transaction. Ms. Hosmer could also be seen operating a vehicle that belonged to a family member. Investigators later located that vehicle parked behind Ms. Hosmer's apartment in Burlington.

On the morning of February 20, 2020, investigators were conducting surveillance in the area near Ms. Hosmer's apartment in anticipation of executing a search warrant. At approximately 1030 hours, Ms. Hosmer was seen driving the previously identified vehicle, pulling into the driveway, and parking behind her apartment. When Ms. Hosmer exited the vehicle, she was taken into custody without incident. A search of the vehicle and Ms. Hosmer's apartment yielded evidence of the crimes allegedly committed. It should be noted that Ms. Hosmer's driving privilege is currently listed as suspended criminally by the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles.

Burlington Police are charging Ms. Hosmer with Burglary, Identity Theft, Credit Card Fraud, and Driving with a Criminally Suspended License.

Ms. Hosmer's criminal record in Vermont shows the following:

- 10 felony charges with five convictions
- 22 misdemeanor charges with nine convictions
- Four assaultive crime charges with two convictions
- One assault on an officer charge
- Six violation of probation / parole charges with five convictions

Community caretaking and crime prevention are shared responsibilities. Citizens and police need to work together to prevent crimes and identify those responsible for crimes that do occur. Please consider the following:

- Lock your doors and windows
- Record the serial numbers of all electronic devices you own
- Know your neighbors and have a sense of the normal patterns of your neighborhood
- Report suspicious persons to police and allow police to assess and respond appropriately

If you are a victim of a burglary in Burlington, please do not touch or disturb the scene and report it to police immediately at 802-658-2704.

Information is preliminary and subject to change.