



**POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF BURLINGTON**

February 26, 2020

MEDIA RELEASE – PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

INCIDENT TYPE:	DATE/TIME REPORTED:
Possible Attempt To Defraud	February 26, 2020
AUTHOR:	APPROVED BY:
Deputy Chief J. Murad	Chief J. Morrison
SUSPECT DISPOSITION:	
Suspect is calling individuals claiming to be Lieutenant or Sergeant Jason Lawson of the Burlington VT Municipal Police Department from the phone number (802)231-3403	

NARRATIVE

On Wednesday February 26, 2020, multiple complainants made reports to the Burlington Police Department (BPD). The complainants reported that they had received telephone calls from an individual who fraudulently alleged that the recipients had outstanding legal paperwork, to include arrest warrants. The caller used the name “Lieutenant Jason Lawson or Sergeant Jason Lawson of Burlington Vermont Municipal Police Department” and spoke with a heavy accent indicative of the southern region of the United States. Although the name used by the caller is in fact a current officer of the BPD, the BPD has nothing to do with these calls and we believe them to be scams or attempts to defraud recipients.

Phone scams or frauds are increasingly common, and the BPD reminds neighbors to take reasonable precautions when receiving unsolicited calls from unknown persons or agencies. Always confirm the identity of the person with whom you are dealing. Whenever possible, ask for a call back number, hang up, and return the call, particularly if the caller is requesting payments or money. Do not provide personal information to callers whose identities you cannot ascertain.

The Burlington PD may call regarding ongoing investigations, request for assistance or to provide public service announcements. BPD will never call to solicit for money over the telephone in lieu of forgoing a legal process or to allow for the avoidance of service of legal documents.

If anyone has additional information about these or other suspected fraudulent phone calls, please call the Burlington Police Department at 802-540-2214.