



**POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF BURLINGTON**

MEDIA RELEASE

INCIDENT TYPE:	DATE/TIME REPORTED:
Multiple incidents at Leddy Park	July 13, 2021
INCIDENT NUMBER:	LOCATION:
21BU010670, 21BU010719, 21BU010738, 21BU010739, 21BU010741	Leddy Park
AUTHOR:	APPROVED BY:
Sgt. Michael Henry	Chief Murad
DISPOSITION:	
Multiple incidents still under investigation; seeking to identify the suspect(s) in two assaults and to determine whether the incidents are related and/or unrelated	

NARRATIVE:

Over the past two days, the Burlington Police Department dispatch center received multiple 911 calls regarding several separate but chronologically proximate incidents in the area of Leddy Park, in the City of Burlington, VT.

1) At approximately 2050 hours on 12 July 2021, the BPD's dispatch center received a 911 call of a woman and man fighting in the area of Leddy Park. The caller stated the woman and man were threatening to "stab" each other. Officers responded and conducted a canvas of the area, but were not able to locate any disturbance.

2) At approximately 1600 hours on 13 July 2021, the Burlington Fire Department responded to a medical call at Leddy Park. Once on scene, BFD requested a police officer to respond for a possible late reported assault that allegedly occurred the night before, on July 12, 2021. When the officer arrived on scene, BFD personnel advised that the female patient made a statement that she was the victim of an assault. The alleged victim did not want to speak with the officer and only made the statement "I'll take care of it myself."

3) At approximately 2120 hours on 13 July 2021, the BFD responded to another medical call at Leddy Park in the vicinity of the baseball fields for a female with a hand laceration. Prior to BFD's arrival, while the female was speaking with 911, the female made a statement that she had intentionally cut her hand with a knife and made vague statements of wanting to "kill people." Officers were dispatched to Leddy Park due to the nature of the incident. The individual with the hand laceration was the same individual from the earlier incident in which she reported having

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been a victim of an assault the night before. She appeared to be highly intoxicated. Officers are currently investigating her allegations.

4) At approximately 2137 hours on 13 July 2021, the BPD dispatch center received a call from a male stating he had been assaulted and stabbed while in the area of Leddy Park in the southwest section of the park. The BFD responded to provide medical care for the victim, who suffered multiple stab wounds and lacerations. Multiple officers responded as well. Arriving officers attended to the victim, who had walked out of the woods with assistance from a friend to a nearby parking lot. Officers located an encampment in the woods that was the apparent scene of the stabbing, and collected evidence and witness statements. They obtained a preliminary description of the alleged male suspect, who had fled the area on foot. A BPD K-9 was deployed to track the suspects last known direction of travel, but the K-9 track yielded negative results. The victim was transported to the University of Vermont Medical Center's emergency department for medical treatment. He was released from the hospital today, but initially refused to leave. He subsequently accompanied officers to a shelter.

5) At approximately 2232 hours on 13 July 2021, the BPD's dispatch center received a 911 call from a person who stated he had been riding his bicycle on the bike path in the area of Leddy Park when an unknown male came out of the woods and assaulted him with a wooden stick. The victim stated the assault occurred approximately an hour prior and the reporting delay occurred because he had to walk his bicycle, which had been damaged in the attack, back to his home. At the time the victim called the police, every on-shift officer was investigating the stabbing incident. Officers were redeployed from the crime scene to respond to the victim's residence. (Shortly thereafter, other officers had to redeploy to respond to an unrelated aggravated assault at Church Street and Pearl Street, as well; that incident was described in a separate, earlier press release distributed today.) The victim described his assailant as an older bald man. The victim displayed minor injuries and declined medical treatment. BPD's preliminary investigation suggests the victim was attacked a few minutes prior to the stabbing incident.

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

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In addition to these Leddy Park incidents, and the aggravated assault on Church Street, officers responded to a large number of other incidents from yesterday until this morning: disorderly

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conduct, agency assists for other cities, mental health issues, domestic assaults, alarms, a stolen vehicle, an overdose, and other calls for service.

As previously announced in May, the BPD has implemented a Priority Response Plan. It involves a new way of grouping the 130 incident categories tracked by our computer aided dispatch system, Valcour. We have grouped those 130 incident categories as “Priority 1,” “Priority 2,” and “Priority 3.” The Priority Response Plan is only put into effect at times when staffing resources are absorbed by Priority 1 and Priority 2 incidents. When incident volume and/or staffing deficits leave the BPD with two or fewer available officers, Priority 3 incidents will not receive a response until more than two officers are once again free and available for response.

Total incident volume is down compared to past years, but Priority 1 incident volume is essentially undiminished. From June 1 to June 15, the Priority Response Plan applied to 6.4% of incidents; from June 16 to June 30, it applied to 11.9% of incidents; and from July 1 to July 13, it applied to 16.4% of incidents.

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