



**POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF BURLINGTON**

MEDIA RELEASE

INCIDENT TYPE:	DATE/TIME REPORTED:	
Assault	January 4, 2022 at 1613 hours	
INCIDENT NUMBER:	LOCATION:	
22BU000178	Church St	
INVESTIGATOR:	INVESTIGATOR CONTACT:	
Ofc. Baur	(802) 540-2305	
AUTHOR:	APPROVED BY:	
Sgt. Michael Henry	Lt. Nguyen	
SUSPECT:	AGE:	SUSPECT ADDRESS:
Charles Root	43	Weybridge, VT
SUSPECT DISPOSITION:		
Charges pending for Simple Assault on Law Enforcement, Attempted Simple Assault with bodily fluids, Disorderly Conduct.		

NARRATIVE:

On January 4, 2022 at approximately 1613 hours, the Burlington Police Department received multiple 911 calls regarding a naked male assaulting people between the area of lower Church Street and Main Street.

The first officer arrived on scene and observed a male, naked from the waist down in 20° temperatures, fighting citizens and speaking incoherently. As the officer approached, the suspect, Charles Root, 43, turned and immediately assaulted the officer by punching him in the face with both hands. Assisted by a citizen, the officer took Mr. Root into custody. Mr. Root also spat at officers while in custody. The Burlington Fire Department responded to evaluate Mr. Root's altered mental state. BFD transported Mr. Root to UVMHC.

Officers interviewed several witnesses/victims who stated they attempted to help Mr. Root, who in turn assaulted them. One of the victims stated he intervened when he observed Mr. Root place a female in a headlock and throw the female to the ground. Some victims had visible injuries but no victims wanted to pursue criminal charges at the time. Charges against Mr. Root for disorderly conduct and for assaulting officers are pending further evaluation. Anyone with additional information about this incident is asked to contact the Burlington Police Department at (802) 658-2704.

Information is preliminary and subject to change.