



POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF BURLINGTON

MEDIA RELEASE

INCIDENT TYPE:	DATE/TIME REPORTED:
Agency Assist – barricaded hostage situation in Milton	02/24/2023 1916 Hours
INCIDENT NUMBER:	LOCATION:
23BU003452	Milton, Vermont

NARRATIVE

This Burlington Police Department press release refers to an incident categorized as an “Agency Assist” in which BPD personnel assisted the Milton Police Department with an operation. The specifics of that incident are described in a MPD press release, which is included at the bottom. It can also be seen on the [Milton Police Department Facebook page](#). This press release describes Burlington’s contribution to the multi-jurisdictional effort that took place in Milton.

At approximately 1857 hours on Friday, February 24, 2023, acting Chief of Police Jon Murad received a direct request for assistance from the Milton Police Department. A man with an arrest warrant was barricaded in a residence with a four-year-old child. The BPD deployed members of its Emergency Response Unit, or ERU, as well as members of its crisis negotiations team. In all, seventeen sworn officers from the BPD participated in the operation at various phases. Both the ERU and the crisis negotiations team operate on a call-out basis, meaning that off-duty officers volunteer to be called in on short notice to participate in exigent operations, as was the case for this deployment.

The ERU is a voluntary special assignment within the BPD. Its hallmark is its embrace, integration, and early adoption of [PERF ICAT deescalation practices](#) (the BPD was one of a handful of agencies around the country to help PERF develop the system). The ERU is also known for its use of [the Emergency Response Vehicle, or ERV](#), although the team can function independently of the vehicle. ERU members are trained in ICAT, team maneuvers, entry tactics, close-quarters weapons use, combat medicine, and a variety of rescue functions. Members train on these techniques regularly. The crisis negotiations team is also a volunteer assignment consisting of specially trained sworn officers. They maintain an open-minded attitude and employ active-listening techniques in order to build rapport with subjects.

Information is preliminary and subject to change.

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Once on scene, negotiators worked to make contact with the barricaded subject and to ascertain the wellbeing of the child. There were several tense and apprehensive hours when nothing was heard from the child. Ultimately, the negotiations team worked for nearly ten hours.

At the same time, the ERU began to prepare for a dynamic entry, if that became necessary. The subject had prepped the home with a number of obstacle defenses. Neighboring residents were instrumental in allowing police to use their homes, which had similar structural layouts to the subject's house, for intelligence and as practice space. The BPD extends its deep gratitude to those residents.

Personnel from the Milton Police Department, the Colchester Police Department, and the Essex Police Department were present during BPD's involvement and provided invaluable assistance.

Ultimately, the teams were able to have the child released and the subject voluntarily surrender to be taken into custody with no one harmed and no use of force.

"I want to commend and thank the entire BPD team that responded to this crisis," said Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger, "and, in particular, to acknowledge the leadership and skill of Lieutenant Mike Beliveau, and negotiators Phil Tremblay, Bryan Kirby, and Chase Vivori in bringing it to a safe and positive resolution. Over many years, Burlington has invested great resources and training in our officers to innovate and transform the way our Department responds to mental health crises and barricaded individuals, and to learn and practice de-escalation as part of everyday policing in our community. I am proud that our skilled and dedicated team was able to achieve this outcome. It is notable that in this time of constrained resources in our own police Department, our sworn officers responded to this call to duty in service of our neighbors. I am grateful for their commitment to our City and to Vermont."

"The ERU and Crisis Negotiations team include some of our most talented and highly-trained officer," said acting Chief of Police Jon Murad. "This work—and the opportunity to take on high-stakes operations in as safe a manner as possible—is the very reason many of them became cops in the first place. Our ERU is founded on deescalation and deceleration, but also on the safe application of dynamic force. For our negotiations, the motto is 'Talk to Me,' and it requires an incredible amount of focus, humanity, and, most importantly, *patience*. Nearly ten hours of negotiations is remarkable. The successful outcome we got here is all we ever want. I'm grateful to them and to our partners in Milton, Colchester, Essex, and at the Vermont State Police."

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MILTON POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESS STATEMENT
(via Facebook, Saturday February 25, 2023, 0908 hours)

On Tuesday, February 21, 2023 the Milton Police Department received a complaint that Shawn Dudley age 36, of Milton was refusing to return his four year old son to the child's mother. The mother has sole legal responsibility for the kid. Over the course of the past four days Milton Police Department members, outreach workers, and member of the Vermont State Police's crisis negotiation unit made several attempts to have Dudley voluntarily release the child to the mother. During the course of the investigation, the Milton Police Department obtained a search warrant for the residence to arrest Dudley and to assure the safe return of the child.

On Friday, February 24, 2023 after nearly eight hours of negotiations with Dudley and repeated attempts to have Dudley release the child the determination was made to enter the residence. Once inside the residence, officers encountered several barricades and barriers hindering officers from moving inside the residence.

After several hours with assistance from the Burlington Police Department's Emergency Response Unit, Essex Police Department, Colchester Police Department and the Vermont State Police Dudley was taken into custody for custodial interference, resisting arrest, hindering law enforcement officers and violation of a relief from abuse order.

Chief Stephen Laroche, "This incident was resolved with help from many partners. The work of the Burlington officers from the Emergency Response Team helped bring this incident to a close. The skill and control they displayed was nothing short of amazing. This team is an incredible asset to Chittenden County. No one was injured and a child was reunited with his mother."

Dudley was lodged at the Chittenden County Correctional Center for the lack of \$1,500 bail.

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