



**POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF BURLINGTON**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

INCIDENT TYPE:	DATE/TIME REPORTED:	
Aggravated Assault	07/06/2023 0724 Hours	
INCIDENT NUMBER:	LOCATION:	
23BU014210	Bike Path/Dog Park	
INVESTIGATOR:	INVESTIGATOR CONTACT:	
Officer Baccaglioni	(802) 540-2272	
AUTHOR:	APPROVED BY:	
Sarah Hernandez Timm	Chief Murad	
SUSPECT:	AGE:	SUSPECT ADDRESS:
Joshua Birch	47	Burlington, VT
SUSPECT DISPOSITION:		
Birch was transported to BPD for processing for four counts of Aggravated Assault. Birch was arraigned and held on bail.		

**NARRATIVE:**

On July 6, 2023, at approximately 7:24am, officers from the Burlington Police Department were dispatched for a report of a male suspect threatening and chasing pedestrians and bicyclists with a knife by the bike path and dog park near the Burlington Waterfront. The complainant provided dispatch with a description of the suspect.

When the first officer arrived on scene, he recognized the suspect from previous law enforcement contacts. The suspect was identified as Joshua Birch, 47, of Burlington. The officer observed Birch to be holding a box cutter, and instructed him to drop the weapon and to get down onto the ground. Birch dropped the box cutter, but did not get down on the ground and instead started reaching into a backpack he was carrying. The officer quickly took Birch to the ground and a second officer placed Birch in handcuffs. One of the officers suffered minor injuries while taking Birch into custody.

Subsequent investigation determined that Birch threatened three individuals with the box-cutter. Two individuals were injured; one victim suffered a minor laceration and was treated at the scene by the Burlington Fire Department. Another victim, who was a city employee, sustained injuries when trying to escape the scene. The individual suffered a fall, causing injury. BFD transported this victim to the University of Vermont Medical Center for treatment.

*Information is preliminary and subject to change.*



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Birch was transported to BPD for processing and charged with four counts of Aggravated Assault. Birch was arraigned and held on bail.

A criminal records check shows that Birch has failed to appear for court proceedings on three occasions and has two misdemeanor convictions.

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

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