



BURLINGTON POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

February 2024



HOSTAGE SITUATION AT T RUGGS TAVERN



Monday, January 22

HOSTAGE STANDOFF ENDS WITH ARREST



6:18
27°



MAN WITH KNIFE ON PARK ST



Joe Kane
for City Council
Ward 3

Feb 23, 2024 – all data preliminary & subject to change

Monday, February 20





BATTERY STREET ENCAMPMENT

On January 29, Community Support Liaisons (CSLs) from the BPD's Crisis Assessment Intervention Programs (CAIP) team, police officers, and partners from Burlington Parks Recreation & Waterfront (including Director Cindi Wight) and the Department of Public Works cleared out the remains of a dangerous, unlawful encampment along Battery Street and on "the shelf" —a ledge in the hillside down hill from the Battery Street greenbelt.

A month earlier, on December 28, a fire had broken out in the camp, highlighting the danger. Led by AD CAIP Lacey Smith of BPD and Special Assistant to End Homelessness Sarah Russell of CEDO, multiple city departments collaborated to follow our protocols for noticing campers of the pending closure while working with them to find safer options for shelter.





230 SAINT PAUL STREET

The closure of the Battery Park encampment aggravated existing problems at Decker Towers, an apartment building managed by the Burlington Housing Authority. The BPD’s Drug Unit has worked closely with employees at Decker to address drug complaints. Chief Murad attended a meeting with BHA staff and residents in August. But since that meeting, cold weather and easy access have meant unhoused persons are trespassing in the building with alarming frequency.

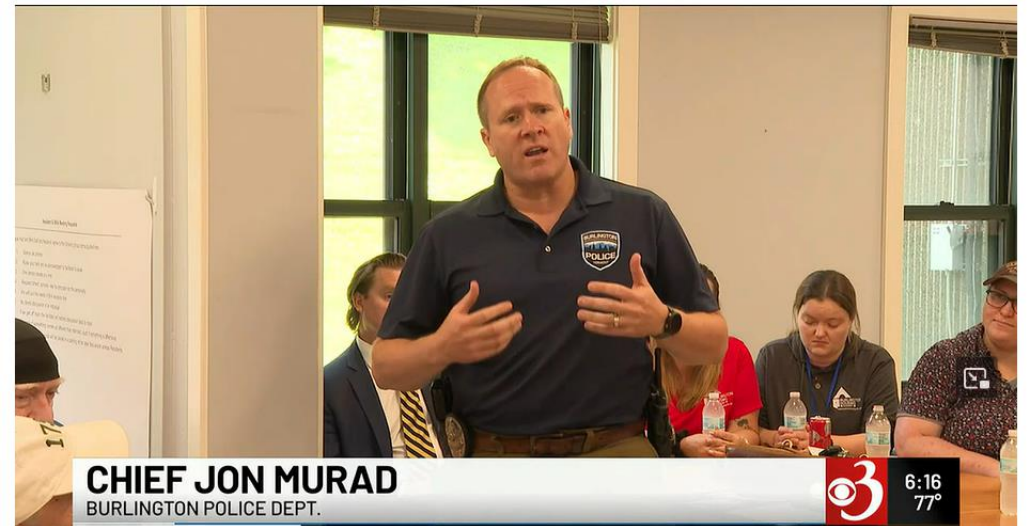
Patrol officers respond to Priority 1 calls at Decker with the same emphasis as in any other part of the city, but trespass is not a Priority 1 call. Over the past few weeks, however, BPD officers have conducted “vertical patrols,” as well. They have made numerous ejections and arrests. But when a typical BPD patrol shift has only four officers, recurring focus on the address is challenging. New access controls will be key to reclaiming residents’ sense of safety.

Incidents at 230 Saint Paul St		
2018	129	(11 = Priority 1)
2019	123	(12 = P1)
2020	222	(33 = P1)
2021	159	(20 = P1)
2022	174	(32 = P1)
2023	381	(64 = P1)
2024*	81	(7 = P1)

Regarding response, and residents’ allegations that “no one is coming,” the BPD currently maintains a Priority Response Plan (see slide 16). We strive to respond to *every* Priority 1 call for service. Of the 64 Priority 1 calls in CY 2023, there were 11 that did not receive a police response. Of those, there were seven 911 Hangups that were confirmed accidental/unnecessary prior to police response, three Overdoses where BFD responded and advised they were unfounded so no officer was dispatched, and one TRO/FRO/ERPO Service where the order expired before it was served.

Feb 23, 2024 – all data preliminary & subject to change

Tenants complain Burlington apartment building is plagued by drugs, crime

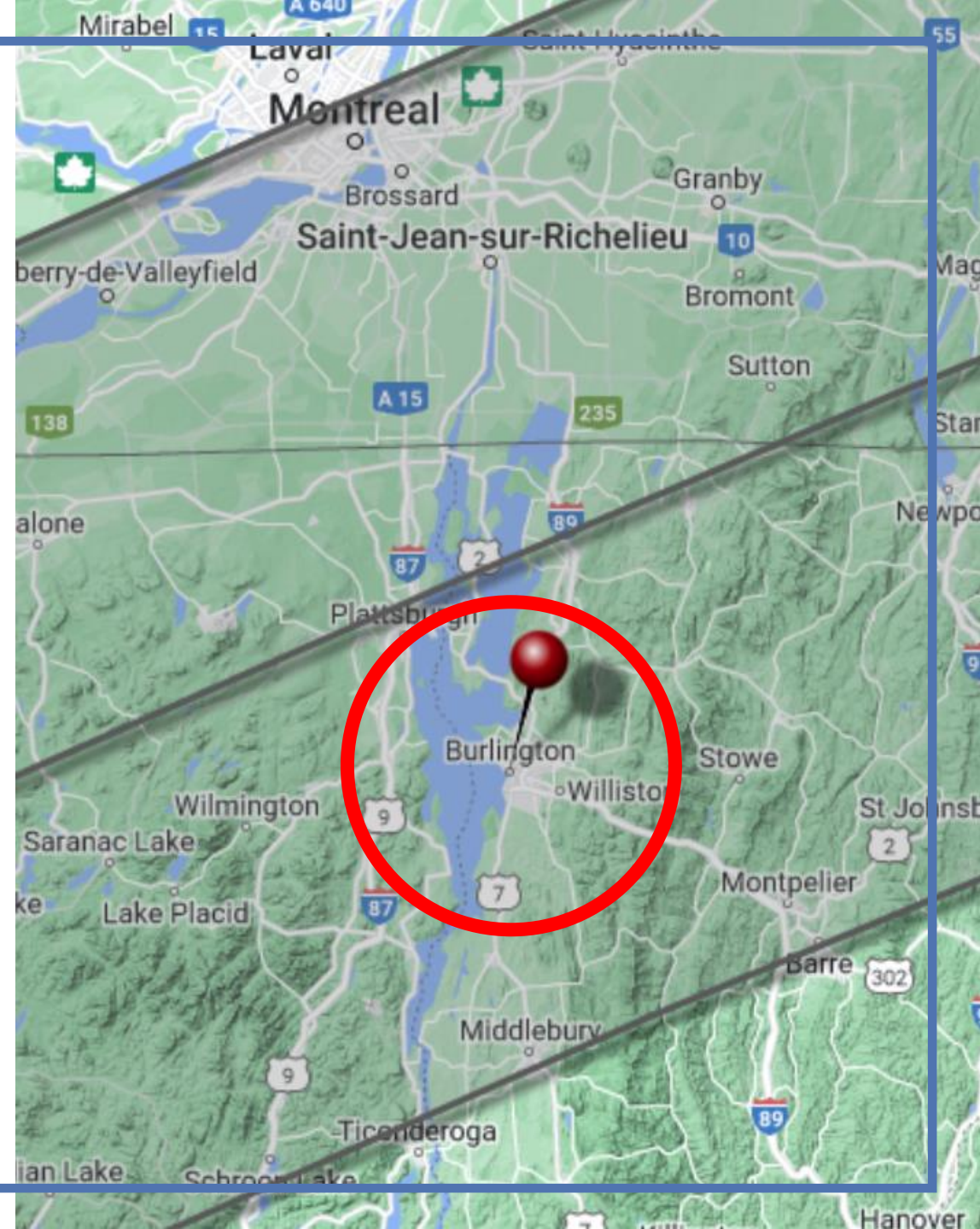




THE PATH OF TOTALITY

On April 8, 2024, Burlington will be in the “path of totality” for a total solar eclipse. The last total eclipse in the Queen City was 92 years ago. America won’t see another total eclipse until 2045 (that one won’t be in Burlington). At about 1526 hours on April 8, people in Burlington will experience a tad more than three minutes of totality.

We have been working with state and local agencies to prepare. Locally, Festival and Event Director Zach Williamson at BCA has led city meetings with Fire, Police, DPW, Parks, and others in planning for this once-in-a-lifetime astronomical event. Although historically there is only a 25% chance of cloudless skies on that date, many projections suggest more than 100,000 people may come to our region. Most hotels are already sold out, often at much higher prices than normal. Deputy Chief Labrecque has been planning how best to deploy our limited resources. We anticipate street closures and planned entertainment on the waterfront. And everyone should expect traffic!





BPD SWORN OFFICER HEADCOUNT, 2015-2024

TOTAL SWORN HEADCOUNT, as of the first of each month, month-by-month



In June 2020, the Burlington City Council voted to reduce, by attrition, the BPD's authorized headcount from 105 to 74. An officer exodus ensued. In Oct 2021, the council raised the cap from 74 to 87, but it was not until a new, strong police contract was ratified in July 2022 that headcount stabilized. We are now working to rebuild.



TEN YEARS OF HIRING

In 2023, we hired 15 sworn officers—more than we ever have in any single year since at least the 1990s.

But rebuilding is about much more than sworn officers alone.

YEAR	IN	Of hired, # still employed	OUT	Net Δ
2014	12	3	8	4
2015	9	3	6	3
2016	13	7	13	0
2017	9	3	9	0
2018	12	5	18	-6
2019	12	6	12	0
2020	5	3	12	-7
2021	1	1	17	-16
2022	7	5	13	-6
2023	15	13	9	6



SWEARING IN, FEBRUARY 1 2024

Our swearing in, attended by employees new and old, families, Mayor Weinberger (who offered inspiring remarks), City Councilors, Police Commissioners, and members of the Queen City Police Foundation, can be [seen on Town Meeting TV.](#)



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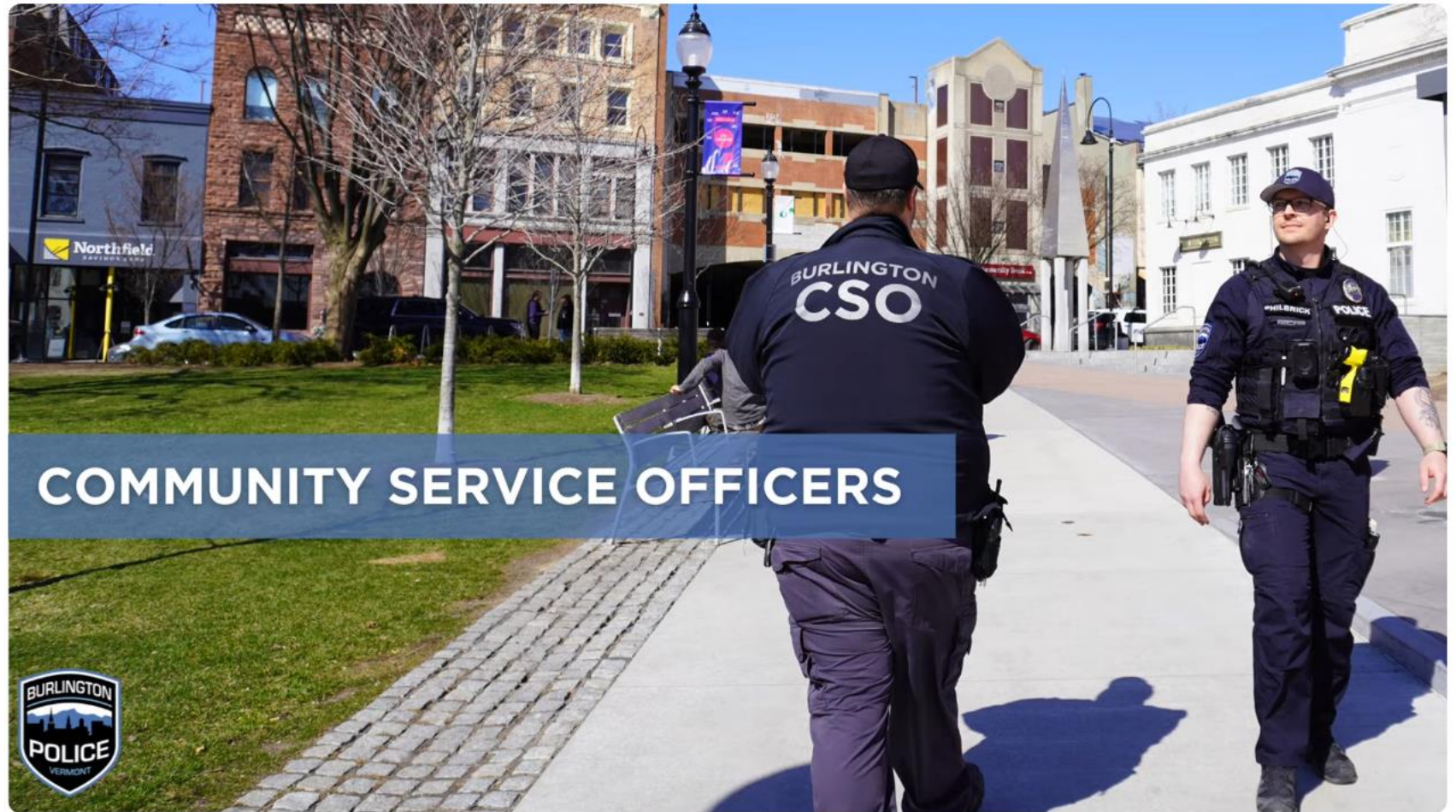
NEW VIDEO IN OUR INFORMATIONAL VIDEO SERIES

New CSOs, or Community Service Officers, were among the new roles sworn in on February 1st. Our Public Information Officer, Sarah Timm, and Redaction Specialist, ShanShan Chen, have produced the latest in our series of short informational videos: [a new video about the CSO program](#).

It joins existing videos about:

- our [Community Support Liaisons](#)
- our [Emergency Response Unit](#)
- our [Use of Force Training](#)
- our [observing Police Memorial Day](#)
- our [recruitment advertisement](#)

...plus all our regularly released monthly use-of-force videos.





SWORN ASSIGNMENTS

Effective Feb 15 2024

55

Currently staffed at 68; authorized for 87.

● 1 COP
●● 2 DCs

USB

●●●

●●●●● ●●●●●

Lieutenants: 3
DAYS: 1 & 5 / 1 & 4

●

DVPO: 1

●●●●● ●●●●●

EVES: 1 & 4 / 1 & 5

●●● ●●●

MIDS: 1 & 2 (x2)

DSB

●● DSB Lt, CUSI Lt

● Drug Sgt

●●●●● 5 DSB general

●●● 3 DSB drugs

●● 2 CUSI

BIAP

●●●●●●● BIAP: 7

ADMIN

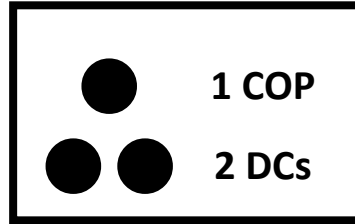
● Ad Lt

● Recruitment

- Sworn supervisor
- Sworn officer



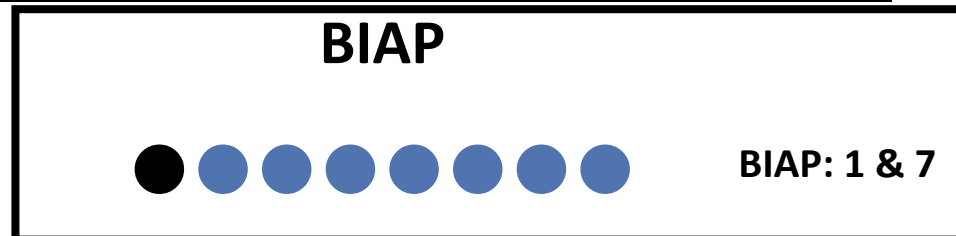
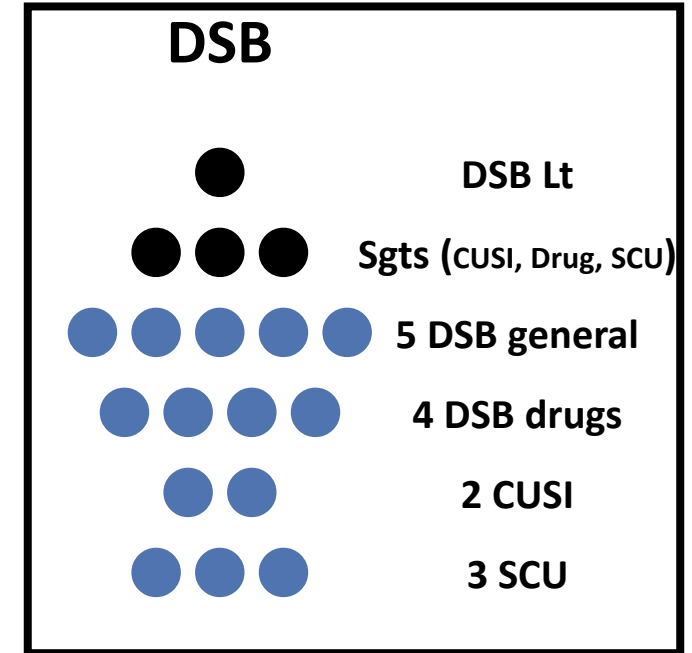
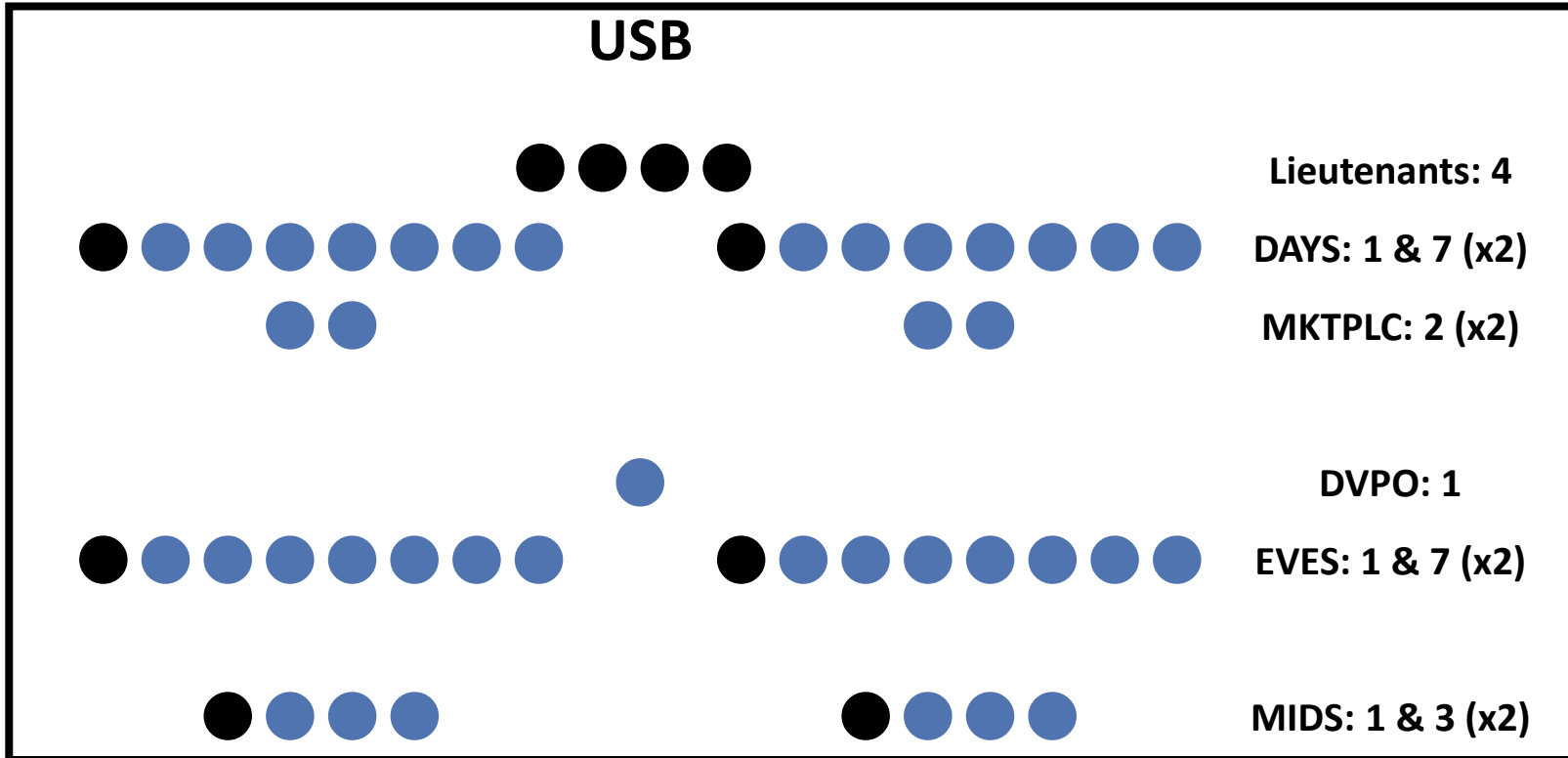
SWORN ASSIGNMENTS



Authorized for 87, by FY26

81

Assumes 81 out of 87; BPD rarely achieves full staffing.



● Sworn supervisor
● Sworn officer



SWORN ASSIGNMENTS

● 1 COP
●● 2 DCs

Authorized for 100, in FY27?

96

Assumes 96 out of 100; BPD rarely achieves full staffing.

USB

Lieutenants: 4
 DAYS: 1 & 8 (x2)
 MKTPLC: 3 (x2)
 SROs: 3
 CAIP/DVPO: 1 & 2
 EVES: 1 & 8 (x2)
 MIDS: 1 & 4 (x2)

DSB

DSB Lt
 Sgts (Drug CUSI, SCU)
 5 DSB general
 5 DSB drugs
 2 CUSI
 4 SCU

BIAP

BIAP: 1 & 7

ADMIN

Ad Lt, Ad Sgt
 Recruitment

- Sworn supervisor
- Sworn officer

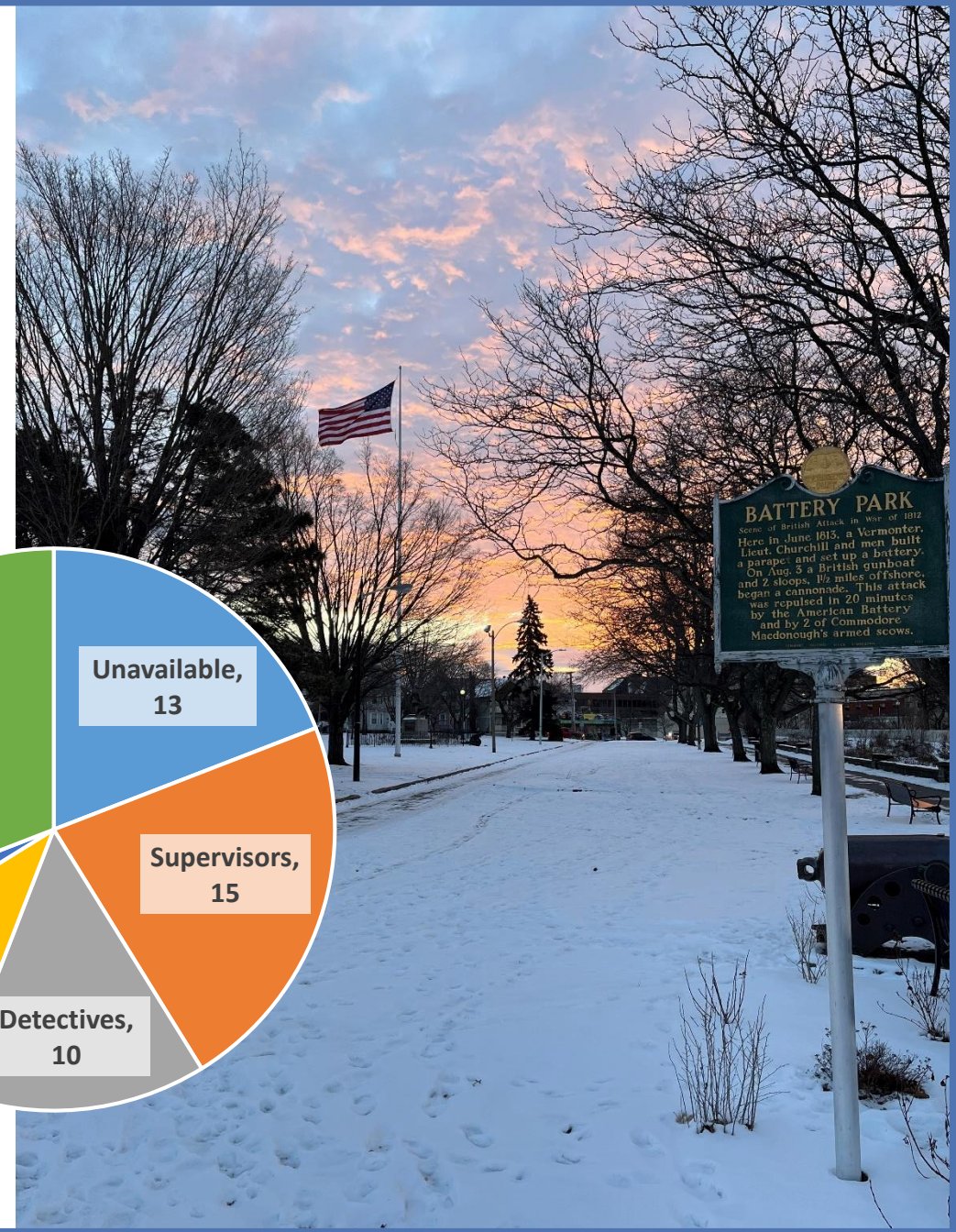


68 TOTAL, 55 AVAILABLE

As of February 15 2024, we are authorized for 87 sworn officers. That’s not enough, but it’s the current number. Of those 87, we have 68. Of those 68, 56 are able to be deployed as solo officers, or “effective.”

minus 13 injured, light, military, FTO, etc. = 55
minus 15 supervisors = 40
minus 10 detectives = 30
minus 7 airport officers = 23
minus 2 special assignments = 21

21 officers on Patrol





INCIDENT VOLUME

YEAR-TO-DATE 02/15

Incidents in 2024 are up 23% compared to 2023.

BPD is addressing more incidents than in years with 50% fewer patrol officers.

Of the 3,502 incidents in 2024 so far, 371 have been “stacked”—i.e., 11%.

Additionally, 260 have been referred to online reporting, or 7%.



It should be noted that not all incidents are crimes. They are more accurately “calls for service.” As shown on the previous slide, there are more than 100 categories of incident. The fact that incidents are up does not necessarily mean that crime is up; as the next slide shows, some categories of criminal incident are up and some are not.

Feb 23, 2024 – all data preliminary & subject to change

	YTD INCIDENTS (as of 02/15)	%Δ
2019	3,369	100%
2020	3,297	↓2%
2021	1,920	↓42%
2022	2,226	↑16%
2023	2,842	↑28%
2024	3,502	↑23%
	Δ 2019 to 2024:	↑4%



THE PRIORITY RESPONSE PLAN

PRIORITY 1	High priority.
PRIORITY 2	Middle priority. (*) = situationally dependent; some may be Priority 1 or Priority 3.
PRIORITY 3	Low priority. Response may be delayed based on officer availability; may receive a CSO response.

With staffing down and incident volume up, the BPD had to create the Priority Response Plan. It husbands resources while remaining true to our duty to prioritize our **NEIGHBORS' PHYSICAL SAFETY** and their sense of safety. **The Plan goes into effect when two or fewer sworn police officers are available for response; when that happens, Priority 2 and Priority 3 incidents get "stacked" and do not receive an in-person response.** When three or more officers are available, they are dispatched to all incidents regardless of Priority category.

Incidents labeled "CSO" or "CSL" initially receive a response from a CSO or CSL, rather than a sworn officer, unless the incident evolves in a way that changes its category or requires a sworn officer.

Incidents labeled "ONL" (for "Online Only") are to be diverted to an online reporting function. Note that larcenies and retail thefts are NOT supposed to be online reports.

Additionally, during daytime weekday hours when DSB detectives are available, **DSB will handle untimely deaths.**

911 Hangup	Cruelty to Animals	CSO	Illegal Dumping	CSO	Robbery
Airport AOA Violation	Custodial Interference *		Impeding a Public Officer		Runaway
Airport Duress Alarm	Disorderly Conduct *		Impersonation of a Police Officer *		Runaway Apprehension
Airport PHASE	Disorderly Conduct by Elec Comm	ONL	Inciting a Felony		Search
Alarm *	Disturbance		Intoxication	CSO	Search Warrant
Alcohol Offense	DLS		Investigation - Cold Case		Service Coordination
Animal Problem	Domestic Assault - Felony		Juvenile Problem *		Sex Offender Registry Violation
Arrest on Warrant	Domestic Assault - Misd		Kidnapping		Sexual Assault
Arson	Domestic Disturbance		Larceny - from a Building		Sheltering/Aiding Runaway
Assault - Aggravated	Drugs		Larceny - from a Motor Vehicle		SRO Activity
Assault - Simple	Drugs - Possession		Larceny - Other		Stalking
Assist - Agency	Drugs - Sale		Larceny from a Person		Stolen Vehicle
Assist - Car Seat Inspection	DUI		Lewd and Lascivious Conduct		Subpoena Service
Assist - K9	Eluding Police		Lockdown Drill		Suicide - Attempted
Assist - Motorist	Embezzlement	ONL	Mental Health Issue *		Suspicious Event *
Assist - Other	Enabling Consumption by Minors		Minor in Possession of Alcohol		Theft of Rental Property
Assist - Public	Encampment Outreach	CSL	Missing Person		Theft of Service
Background Investigation	Encampment Policy	CSL	Motor Vehicle Complaint	CSO	Threats/Harassment *
Bad Check	Escape		Neighbor Dispute	CSL	Traffic
Bar / Liquor License Violation	Extortion	ONL	Noise	CSO	Trespass *
Bomb Threat	False Info to Police		Obstruction of Justice		TRO/FRO Service
Burglary *	False Pretenses	ONL	Operations		TRO/FRO Violation
CHINS	False Public Alarms		Ordinance Violation - Other	CSO	Unlawful Restraint
Community Outreach	False Swearing		Overdose		Untimely Death
Compliance Check	Fireworks	CSO	Parking	CSO	Use of Elec Comm to Lure a Child
Computer Crime	Foot Patrol		Possession of Stolen Property		Uttering a Forged Instrument
Contributing to Delinquency of Minor	Forgery	ONL	Prescription Fraud	ONL	Vandalism
Counterfeiting	Found/Lost Property	CSO	Prohibited Acts		VIN verification
Crash - Fatality	Fraud	ONL	Property Damage	CSO	Violation of Conditions of Release *
Crash - Injury to person(s)	Fugitive From Justice		Reckless Endangerment *		Voyeurism *
Crash - LSA *	Graffiti Removal		Recovered Property	CSO	Weapons Offense
Crash - Non-Investigated	Hindering Arrest		Resisting Arrest		Welfare Check *
Crash - Property damage only	Homicide		Retail Theft		
Cruelty to a Child	Identity Theft	ONL	Roadway Hazard		



SELECTED VALCOUR INCIDENTS, YTD AS OF FEBRUARY 15

	Assault - Agg	Assault - Simple	Burglary	Crash w Injury or Fatal	Disorderly Conduct	Domestic Assault*	Domestic Disturb	Gunfire	Larceny (all)**	Mental Health Issue	Overdose	Robbery	Sexual Assault	Stolen Vehicle	Traffic
2019	4	18	9	10	17	22	51	0	60	108	8	3	7	6	383
2020	6	21	6	12	15	6	74	1	43	132	14	3	9	7	372
2021	5	8	6	8	4	1	55	0	60	101	13	2	3	4	95
2022	6	14	32	8	11	6	63	1	78	111	12	3	0	14	120
2023	3	20	20	9	9	8	54	1	141	144	40	0	4	50	72
2024	6	24	22	9	5	0	51	3	171	101	33	0	2	30	181

* = combines incidents categorized as “Domestic Assault – Felony” and “Domestic Assault – Misdemeanor”

** = combines incidents categorized as “Larceny from a Person,” “Larceny – from a Building,” “Larceny – from Motor Vehicle,” and “Larceny – Other”

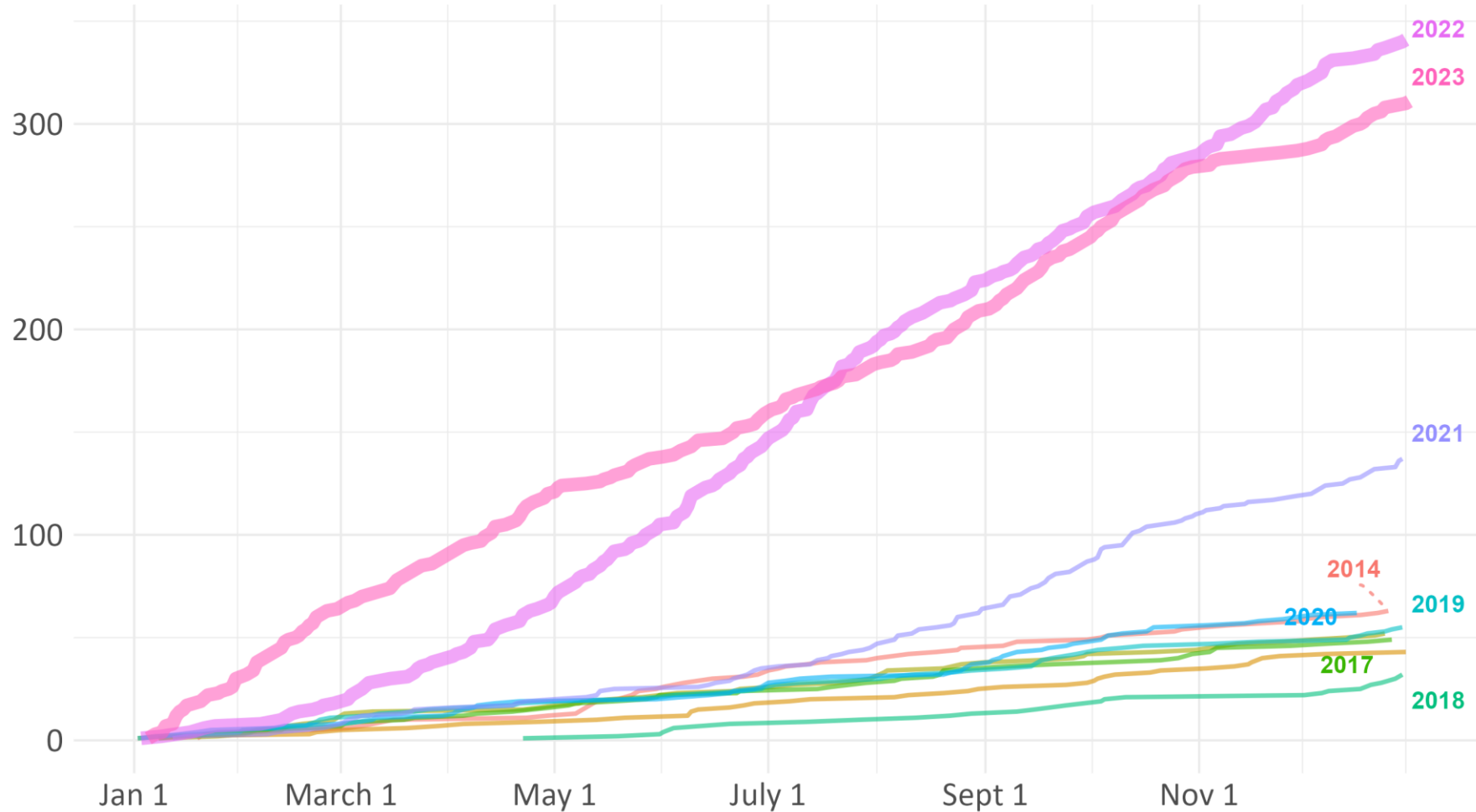
NOTE: All categories shown year-to-date, through February 15 of their respective year

NOTE: These data are derived from Valcour incidents. Valcour is the BPD’s computer-aided dispatch and records-management system. Incidents are initially categorized by dispatch according to the information provided by a caller; the category may be changed by the officer who responds to the scene and/or the detective who takes the case. Offense data and/or NIBRS data may differ.



Stolen Vehicle Incidents Year over Year

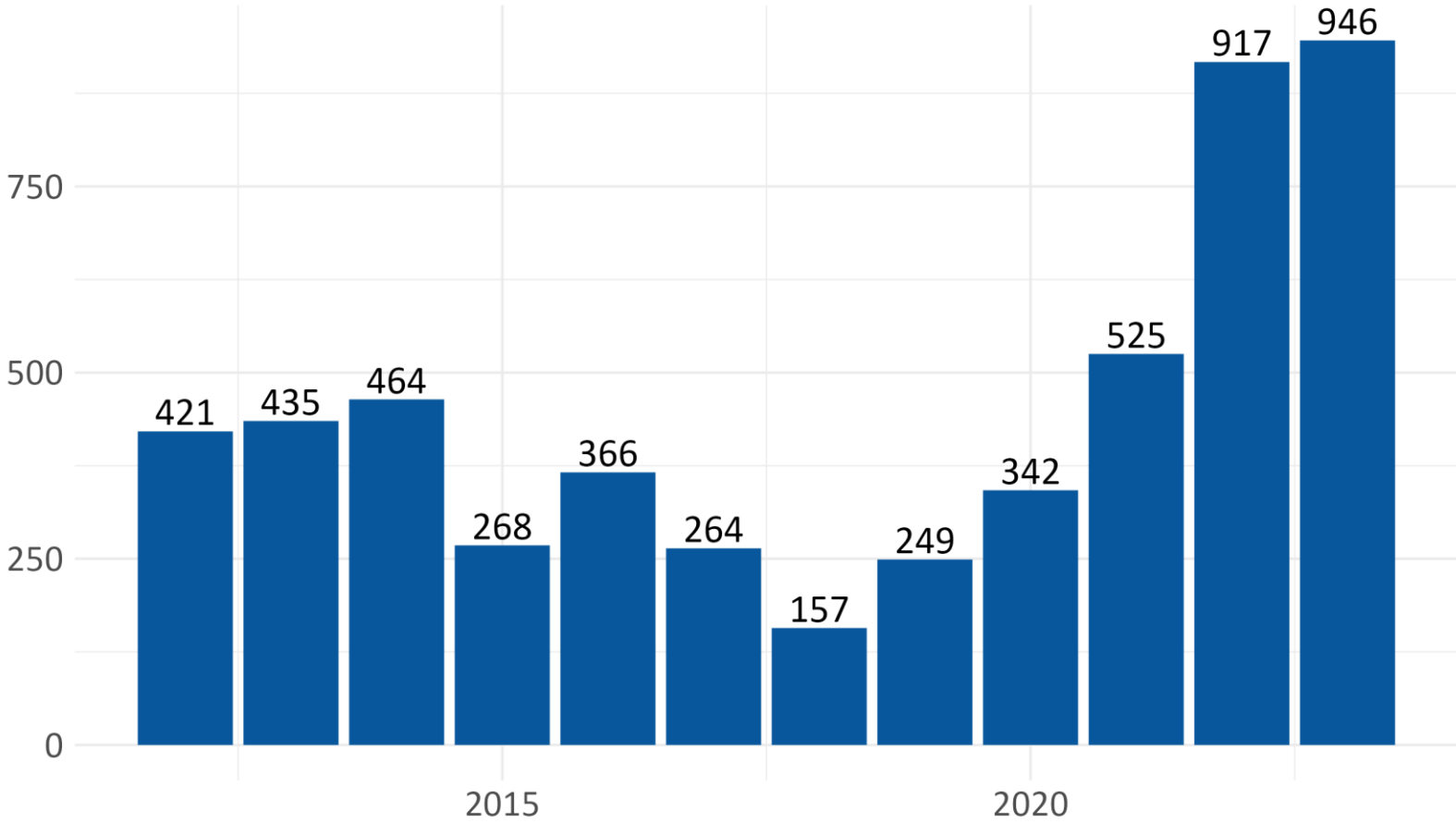
Burlington Police Department Stolen Vehicle Incidents, 2014-2023





Larceny from a Motor Vehicle, Felony and Misdemeanor

BPD Larceny from a Motor Vehicle Offenses, 2012-2023



Includes Petit Larceny 13 V.S.A. § 2502 and Grand Larceny 13 V.S.A. § 2501



THE BPD IS HIRING!

\$74,500
starting pay

\$100,000
top pay (when contract matures)

and a \$15,000
hiring bonus

- City retirement with 5-year vesting
- Shift differential, weekend, and holiday pay
- **full medical benefits** and wellness incentives
- Retirement after 20 years of service at 50% salary
- Retirement after 25 years of service at 75% salary
- 15-step pay scale for non-supervisory employees
- Overtime can be received as cash or vacation accrual
- **10-hour workday, 4-days-on/3-days-off schedule**
- **Weekends off every other month**
- Yearly education bonus
- Beards and tattoos permitted
- Various **specialty assignments** such as detectives, narcotics, K9, domestic violence prevention, airport
- **Applicant can be a non-U.S. citizen** if applicant is a permanent resident / green-card holder

www.bpdcareers.com