



BURLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Antonio B. Pomerleau Building
1 North Avenue
Burlington, Vermont 05401

Michael E. Schirling
Chief of Police

Phone (802) 658-2704
Fax (802) 865-7579
TTY/TDD (802) 658-2700

PRESS RELEASE

Date: June 18, 2015
Location: Ward Street, Burlington
Incident Type: Untimely Death(s)
Investigating Officer: Detective Dwayne Mellis
Approved by: Chief Michael Schirling

This morning at 8:55 am Burlington Police and Fire Departments were summoned to a residence on Ward Street in Burlington. Family members reported that two brothers, Dennis (34) and Sean Thibault (32) (of Burlington and Westford, respectively) were found unresponsive at the house.

On arrival first responders found that both men were deceased. Preliminary indications indicate that they succumbed to drug overdoses. However, a full investigation is under way and an autopsy will be performed later today or tomorrow to determine the cause and manner of death.

On December 4, 2014 Burlington Police Detective and Street Crimes Unit executed a search warrant at the same residence. A press release related to that investigation, search warrant, and arrest is attached for reference. At that time records showed that Police and Fire responders had been to the house for two prior overdose calls. There have been no calls to the residence since December 4, 2014.

Also attached is a data set produced on June 12 (not including these two instances of suspected overdose) that show an alarming increase in the number of reported overdoses year to date. As of June 12, 30 overdoses had been reported to Burlington Police (exclusive of other overdoses not reported to police) compared to 37 for the entire 2014 calendar year.

Among the issues contributing to an increase in overdoses, investigators believe that an increasing number of heroin packages contain fentanyl, making a dangerous use of drugs even more dangerous.

More information will follow as it is available.