



BURLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

INCIDENT TYPE:	DATE/TIME REPORTED:	
Aggravated Disorderly Conduct & Hate Crime	June 15, 2016	
INCIDENT NUMBER:	LOCATION:	
2016BU017168	Several locations around downtown Burlington	
INVESTIGATOR:	INVESTIGATOR CONTACT:	
Det. Cpl. Michael Hemond	802-540-2229	
AUTHOR:	APPROVED BY:	
Lieutenant Shawn Burke	Lieutenant Dennis Duffy	
Victim:	AGE:	ADDRESS:
Male	42	
Suspect:		
John Esperson	41	Burlington, Transient

SYNOPSIS:

John Esperson caused a disturbance at several different locations in the downtown area this date. The incident started at Church / Cherry by disrupting the Gorda Taco stand, demanding service "even though I'm not black" repeatedly, referring to some Caucasian and African American patrons as a "Nigger" and a "Nigger Lover" repeatedly. As he walked away from the area he continued making loud statements about "niggers" when he was told to leave.

Esperson caused more disturbances shortly thereafter while attempts to locate him were ongoing by throwing change in the face of a random female and pushing a random male while calling him a "nigger" (this male was Caucasian). Esperson was located shortly thereafter hiding behind a car, interviewed, admitted his involvement and was taken into custody. He was incapacitated, had been released from prison the day prior and was known to the Street Outreach team. Esperson was held overnight for lack of \$1000 bail, conditions against contact with victims, use of alcohol / drugs, presence on the Marketplace.

If anyone has information regarding this incident please contact Detective Michael Hemond @ 540-2229 or Crime Stoppers @ 802-846-6666.

Respect ~ Honor ~ Remember

*Officer James P. McGrath, end of watch May 12, 1904; Officer J. Albert Fisher, end of watch December 15, 1947;
Officer Robert W. Provost, end of watch January 13, 1954*