

south**bur**lington

P O L I C E

MEDIA RELEASE

INCIDENT TYPE:	DATE/TIME REPORTED:	
Stolen Vehicle Recovery – Crash	02/04/2023 at 11:30 PM	
INCIDENT NUMBER:	LOCATION:	
23SB000984	Quarry Hill – Spear Street	
INVESTIGATOR:	INVESTIGATOR CONTACT:	
Ofc. Cody Wilson	cwilson@southburlingtonpolice.org	
AUTHOR:	CONTACT:	
Chief Shawn P. Burke	sburke@southburlingtonpolice.org	
SUSPECT:	AGE:	SUSPECT ADDRESS:
Keisha Willard	27	LKA: Bristol, Vermont
DISPOSITION:		
Held on \$5,000 bail pending arraignment - charges include; leaving the scene of an accident injury resulting, grossly negligent operation of a vehicle, assault on a law enforcement officer and violation of pretrial conditions for driving a motor vehicle.		

NARRATIVE:

On 02/04/2023 at approximately 11:20 PM UVM Police Services attempted to stop a stolen Lexus sedan in the City of Burlington. The suspect car fled from the UVM Police in the direction of the City of South Burlington. South Burlington Police began to canvass the northern neighborhoods located off Spear Street in search of the stolen Lexus.

Officer C. Wilson found the car in question on Quarry Hill. Ofc. Wilson observed a male putting gas into the car from a portable container while it was parked. The male suspect fled on foot, after a brief foot chase Officer Wilson returned to the stolen car having been unable to capture the male suspect. At this point there was a female in the driver's seat of the stolen car. Officer Wilson positioned his police cruiser in a fashion to limit the female's ability to flee. The female rammed the police cruiser with the stolen car and was able to escape. During this encounter Ofc. Wilson was struck by his police cruiser as he was positioned outside of it attempting to stop the stolen car.

Sergeant S. Pope responded to assist Officer Wilson. As Sgt. Pope was travelling south on Spear Street toward the Quarry Hill neighborhood his cruiser was struck by the fleeing stolen car. At the time of this collision the cruisers blue lights were on. Preliminary information suggests that the stolen vehicle struck Sgt. Pope's cruiser as the suspect attempted to pass other traffic on Spear Street which was yielding to the cruiser.

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The stolen car continued to the Jug Handle where it left the road and struck a tree. The operator, Keisha Willard, was taken into custody by officers from UVM and Winooski Police without further incident. Willard was transported to UVMMC for a leg injury – Willard has been admitted for surgery and has been ordered held on \$5,000 bail pending her arraignment.

The Essex Police responded with a K-9 in an attempt to track the male who initially fled from Ofc. Wilson. Despite these efforts, the male suspect was not located.

Willard is a known associate of Eric Loyer. Investigators believe Loyer was the male who fled from Officer Wilson initially on Quarry Hill. Loyer is wanted on several charges and habitually runs from the police placing the public in danger.

This morning, 02/05/2023, shortly after 7:00 AM officers took a report of a car having been stolen from East Terrace, a neighborhood which is adjacent Quarry Hill. In this instance, a 2012 Subaru Impreza Sedan bearing Vermont KDG 351 was warming up in a driveway. A lone male huddled in a blanket was seen in the area prior to the car being stolen. Investigators consider Loyer a person of interest in this stolen car incident.



*Likeness only

South Burlington Police were assisted by the Vermont State Police, UVM Police Services, Winooski Police, and the Essex Police during this incident. This information is preliminary and subject to change as the investigation continues.

****END****