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ESSEX POLICE DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

Date: 03/19/2024

RE: 24ES001663 Bank Robbery ***UPDATE***

US Attorney's Office, District of Vermont issues press release regarding recent bank robberies.

Following a comprehensive investigation, Essex Police have identified Samuel Blatt, 32 of Burlington as the suspect in the robbery at M&T bank that occurred on February 28th. In cooperation with the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department, the Winooski and Burlington Police Departments, the Chittenden County Gun Violence Task Force, and many other Federal, State and local agencies, it was determined Blatt was a person of interest in other incidents as well.

On March 15, 2024, at 2:55 pm, Blatt was located in Burlington and taken into custody without incident by BPD. Essex Police officers worked diligently to solve this incident and were instrumental in the prompt identification and capture of this suspect.

ORIGINAL RELEASE:

Date: 02/28/2024

RE: 24ES001663 - Bank Robbery

On February 28, 2024, at 15:58 hours the Essex Police Department received a report of a bank robbery at the M&T Bank located at 50 Sunderland Way in the Town of Essex. Callers reported that a male left the bank with an undetermined amount of cash. The subject presented a note asking for money, but no weapons were displayed.

The suspect is described as white male, approximately 5'10"- 6' with a slim build, wearing a white Nike sweatshirt, brown pants, a black North Face beanie hat, a face mask and gloves. He left in an unknown direction.

Essex PD officers searched the area without result. The incident was assigned to the EPD Detective division for investigation which is ongoing.

Anyone with information about this crime is asked to contact Detective Brett Williger at 802-879-4923.

Issued By: Sergeant John Dunn

Contact: Detective Corporal Brett Williger



THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT of JUSTICE

United States Attorney's Office
District of Vermont

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 19, 2024
[@USAO_VT](https://justice.gov/usao-vt)

United States Courthouse and Federal Building
Post Office Box 570, Burlington VT 05402
Tel: (802) 951-6725

Vermont Man Charged with Bank Robbery

Burlington, Vermont – The United States Attorney's Office stated that Samuel W. Blatt, age 32, of Vermont, has been charged by criminal complaint with bank robbery.

On Friday, March 15, 2024, following an investigation involving numerous law enforcement offices, Mr. Blatt was arrested in Burlington. He is currently being held on state charges. An initial appearance in U.S. District Court will be scheduled at a later date.

According to court records, investigators have tied Mr. Blatt to bank robberies in Essex, Johnson, and Winooski, as well as an attempted bank robbery in Burlington.

The United States Attorney's Office emphasizes that the complaint contains allegations only and that Mr. Blatt is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. If convicted, Mr. Blatt faces up to 20 years in prison, three years of supervised release, and a \$250,000 fine. The actual sentence, however, would be determined by the Court with guidance from the advisory United States Sentencing Guidelines and the statutory sentencing factors.

United States Attorney Nikolas P. Kerest commended the investigative collaboration that occurred among the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the Chittenden County Gun Violence Task Force, the police departments of Winooski, Burlington, Williston, Essex, and Milton, the Investigations Unit of Vermont DMV Enforcement and Safety, Homeland Security Investigations, the United States Border Patrol, the Sheriff's Departments of Grand Isle and Lamoille Counties, and the Vermont State Police.

The prosecutor is Assistant United States Attorney Colin Owyang. Counsel is yet to be appointed for Mr. Blatt.