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## **ESSEX POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

Case Number: 25ES009137  
Release Date/Time: 12/15/25 16:45  
Issued by: Chief Ron Hoague

On December 15, 2025 at approximately 13:15 hours, Essex and Milton Police officers arrived at 64 Indian Brook Road in the Town of Essex for the purpose of serving a search warrant for the residence. A warrant had been issued by the Chittenden Superior Court to search this residence for evidence relating to the crimes of Aggravated Stalking and Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order in an incident that was reported to the police department on December 12, 2025. This warrant also ordered officers to search for a male suspect who had been identified as part of that investigation.

Over the weekend, officers made numerous attempts to contact the suspect via telephone and by going to this residence while also seeking the help of family and friends to safely arrest the male before serving the warrant. All of these attempts were unsuccessful.

Again, upon arrival the residence today, officers made several attempts to call the male suspect out of the residence by knocking and loudly announcing their presence and that they were in possession of a search warrant. Again, they did not gain compliance. While using a miniature Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (drone) to safely search the residence the officers were also required to enter the residence to complete the search. While doing so, they searched a small room with a couch that had initially been cleared by the UAV. An Essex PD officer was nearby when a gunshot was heard from underneath the couch. EPD officers then discovered that the male they were searching for had been hiding underneath and had attempted suicide via a single gunshot wound. Resuscitation efforts were initially begun by EPD officers which were followed by extensive efforts by Essex Rescue and Essex Fire Department personnel. The male was transported by Essex Rescue to UVM Medical Center. Unfortunately, the male later succumbed to his wound and died.

Due to the involvement of Essex Police personnel, the Vermont State Police were requested and will be handling the investigation of the death. Per policy, the Essex Police Department does not release the names of decedents involved in suicide.

Although it is a tragic ending, we wish to recognize the courage of our officers in this dangerous incident and are grateful that this incident did not end with further harm. We wish to thank the Milton Police Department personnel for the operation of their UAV. Most importantly, on behalf of the Essex Police Department we wish to express our condolences to the family of the deceased male and all who are adversely affected by his death. We wish to remind all that resources exist to assist those considering suicide. If you are hurting, please reach out to the suicide lifeline by calling or texting 988.