

For Immediate Release

On October 22, 2024, at approximately 2330 hours officers with the Barre City Police Department attempted to stop a vehicle on Route 62 for a high rate of speed. The vehicle ultimately fled and led officers on a pursuit. After temporarily getting stuck in a lawn on a dead-end street, the vehicle rammed into a police cruiser as it was attempting to turn around, veered off and struck another officer that was outside the vehicle, knocking him to the ground. The vehicle then fled for a short distance prior to getting stuck again. The operator, later identified as 34-year-old John Balch of Warren, VT fled on foot for a short distance before being taken into custody. Balch was wanted on a \$20,000 warrant for his arrest resulting from a July 2023 home invasion in Berlin, VT. Balch was lodged at the Northeast Correctional Center pending arraignment in Washington Superior Court on October 23, 2024 and is now facing a multitude of charges to include Grossly Negligent Operation, Attempting to Elude, Leaving the Scene of an Accident with Bodily Injury Resulting, Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer, and Resisting Arrest. The investigation is ongoing; the vehicle Balch was operating as well as a backpack he discarded were seized pending search warrants. The officer who had been struck was treated and released from the Central Vermont Medical Center.