

**From:** Bombardier, Tim

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 3, 2021 2:55 PM

**Subject:** Numbers That I spoke of today

**Here are the bullet points from my conversation**

**As of 01/07/21** In Barre we had 14 people who from 03/01/2020 to today are using the Hollow Inn as their residence that have involvements in our RMS system (VALCOUR) and we have 33 involvements at the Hollow Inn address. These individuals have also caulked up a total of 139 involvements between them at the hollow and in our community. Although all of these are not separate incidents you can see what type of burden just a few individuals can be.

The complaints range from noise complaints to welfare checks, drugs and warrant arrest, as well as domestic violence cases, etc. As I stated before we also have one missing person case which is most likely a homicide that detectives are still working on and have been since April of last year. These individuals are very mobile and at least one of them had a good portion of their involvements in Berlin.

At this time Berlin has 68 people with involvements in VALCOUR who have used the Hilltop as their address and Montpelier has 20 people at the Econo Lodge during the same time frame.

Initially I did not take the time to run down the individual involvements for the Berlin and Montpelier, and I was thinking that they were similar to ours or in the case of the Hilltop worse.

I did however do a quick look back for the folks at the Hilltop and it looked as if at least 35% are not from in Central Vermont and have hailed from St Jay, Hardwick, and Chittenden Co. prior to being housed here.

This brings up the question of where do people go when the funds go away especially if they have no connection to this area or any type of support system of family or friends. The additional burden on services and the lack of any plan to reintegrate these folks back to where they came from is a serious concern.

**As of 01/08/21** The next day I took a quick look at the twenty individuals that show up in VALCOUR as using the Econo Lodge in Montpelier during the same time period and it looked like at least 6 are not from here and then there are three others who just materialized out of thin air. One for sure who we know came from Mass and another from NH.

I also did a snap shot of these 20 individuals who have used the Econo Lodge as their residence when being involved with the police (same time frame), and they had a total of **359 involvements of which 226 have taken place in the community, not at the hotel.** Like the other places I have checked there are some involvement that these people share (overlap) and not all of them are committing crimes but this is still a drain on services.

**As of Today date 02/02/21** As of yesterday there are currently 254 adults and 62 children living in CV hotels, 138 of these adults have been involved with Police, Fire/EMS and they have been involved in 937 calls for service with police or Fire/EMS. This is a broad over view and there are definitely over laps of people and incidents.

Of the 138 adults 53 have been arrested.

Arrest data: Hill Top 27, Econo Lodge 9, Hollow Inn 11, and Quality Inn 6. (Total 53) **NOTE: there were 3 UNK so/so**

(20% of these individuals (11) do not appear to be from CV) and 24 of the 27 have a drug history

**I have focused on a lot of the bad things to make the point that things are not good, that they need to change, and we need a plan for the future.**

We understand that the homeless population will often demand more of resources, or that in some cases past legal, mental health, or substance abuse issues have led to homelessness in the first place.

Law enforcement and service providers are doing their best to take care of the needs of this population – especially those who are living in fear of other hotel guests, and those with children. (This was done early on by trying to get as many of the families with children in one place)

However, beyond the calls for service for fights and public order offenses, are far greater challenges – domestic abuse, drug dealing, and we greatly suspect human trafficking are taking place.

Life and calls for service are still going on in our communities outside of the hotels – and while the emergent calls for service are being addressed, we are hard pressed to tackle these greater challenges lurking behind closed doors or just down the hall.

We are hoping to address some of these with enhanced enforcement and outreach involving our officers, our police social worker and our mental health clinician as well as other community partners.

In Washington County we have begun our preliminary discussion and planning on how to ensure a successful handoff of case management and services when the various means of housing individuals temporarily begin to sunset.

Planning must begin now to ensure those here temporarily have a plan when they return to their home communities. While I have focused on some of the bad things, we also have a great opportunity in having so many members of our vulnerable population known and more or less all in one place – There is an opportunity to get these people the help they need, and work on a long term plan for housing stability, treatment needs, and a better life. **Which I believe everyone deserves**



**Chief Timothy J. Bombardier**  
Capt (ret.) Vermont State Police  
**Barre City Police Department**  
15 Fourth St.  
Barre, Vermont. 05461