



William M. Taylor  
*Superintendent*

Deborah Friedl  
*Deputy Superintendent*

Arthur Ryan, Jr.  
*Deputy Superintendent*

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**Public Information Officer:**

Captain Timothy Crowley  
Office: (978) 674-1907  
[tcrowley@lowellma.gov](mailto:tcrowley@lowellma.gov)

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**LOWELL POLICE ARREST 3 JUVENILES IN ROCK, BB GUN ASSAULT ON HOMELESS: BB GUN EXACT REPLICA OF LPD ISSUED FIREARM**

This morning at 10:04am, Lowell Police Officers responded to the area near the intersection of Fletcher St. and Dutton St. for a report that someone was shooting a BB Gun at homeless persons living under the railroad bridge along the Northern Canal. Upon arriving, Officer Steve Beland observed three youths on the railroad bridge, two were throwing rocks and one was firing a BB Gun at the homeless gathered under the bridge. Upon seeing Officer Beland the subjects ran. One stopped and threw a rock at the pursuing Officer Beland that landed off to his side. All three were apprehended and placed under arrest. Three victims came forward with minor injuries from being hit by BB's and rocks. A **14 year old** was charged with **Juvenile Delinquency to wit: Unlawful Possession of a BB Gun by a Minor, 3 Counts of Assault and Battery by Means of a Dangerous Weapon to wit BB Gun and Trespassing. Two 12 year olds were charged with Juvenile Delinquency to wit: 3 Counts of Assault by Means of a Dangerous Weapon to wit Rocks and Trespassing.** All three were transported and arraigned in Lowell Juvenile Court this afternoon.

Of great concern is the BB Gun is an exact copy of the Smith and Wesson model handgun carried by the Lowell Police Department and many other law enforcement agencies. Attached to this press release is a photo of the BB Gun next to a Lowell Police firearm. Officers confronting a subject carrying or presenting this weapon would not be able to differentiate the BB Gun from the .40 caliber pistol.



The City of Lowell • Police Department  
JFK Civic Center • 50 Arcand Drive • Lowell, MA01852  
P: 978.937.3200 • F: 978.970.0455  
www.LowellPolice.com

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