



SCOTT LACHASSE  
CHIEF OF POLICE

# BURBANK POLICE DEPARTMENT

200 North Third Street, Burbank, CA 91502

## OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASE

### OFFICER SERIOUSLY INJURED AFTER BEING PUNCHED BY SUSPECT

July 24, 2020

**Burbank, California** – A Burbank Police Officer is recovering after being punched and suffering a concussion while attempting to detain a suspect on suspicion of assault.

On July 23, 2020, at about 5:00 P.M., Burbank Police responded to Five Guys Burgers, located at 201 East Magnolia Boulevard, after receiving a 911 call about a suspect who had punched the manager of the restaurant in what appeared to be an unprovoked attack.

Police officers arrived and located the suspect near the intersection of Magnolia Boulevard and Third Street. The suspect was identified as Duane Godard, a 28-year-old transient. Police officers recognized Godard from several recent incidents, where it was alleged he committed random assaults on citizens for no apparent reason.

The first police officer arriving engaged Godard in conversation and instructed him to set his belongings down. Godard refused, at which time the officer attempted to grab hold of his arm in an effort to detain him. Godard immediately began punching the officer in the head, which knocked both Godard and the officer to the ground. Godard then placed the officer in a head lock. Other police officers rushed to assist and were able to free the officer from Godard's grasp. Godard also spit on a police officer. He was ultimately placed in handcuffs and taken into custody.

The police officer sustained a head injury as a result of the assault and was transported to a local hospital. He is recovering. Godard was not injured in the incident.

Since May of 2020, Godard has been arrested four times in the City of Burbank for unprovoked assaults on citizens. Prior to this incident, his most recent arrest was in June on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon, after he allegedly took a citizen's cell phone and smashed it over their head. Prior incidents include Godard punching a mentally disabled man for no apparent reason and assaulting a female after following her as she walked down the sidewalk.

Godard was booked on suspicion of battery causing serious bodily injury. He is currently in-custody and being held on \$50,000 bail. Godard is due in court on Monday.

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QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS STATEMENT SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:  
SERGEANT DEREK GREEN | 818-238-3240 | [DGREEN@BURBANKCA.GOV](mailto:DGREEN@BURBANKCA.GOV)

24-HOUR: 818-238-3000

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE: 818-238-3240

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