

# ***Barre City Police Department***

**Chief Braedon S Vail**

15 Fourth Street, Suite 2  
Barre, Vermont 05641-4476

[www.barrecity.org](http://www.barrecity.org)

Tel: 802-476-6613  
Fax: 802-476-0249

Larry E. Eastman, Jr.  
Deputy Chief of Police

\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\*

On September 29, 2023, after a lengthy investigation, the Barre City Police Department assisted by the Barre Town Police Department, Berlin Police Department, Washington County Sheriff's Department and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) executed a search warrant at a residence along the 800 block of N. Main Street in Barre. Officers seized felony amounts of crack cocaine, regulated pills, evidence of sales, and a large sum of cash.

57yo Sue Austin, 58yo John Mason and a 40yo Shawn Braley, all from Barre, as well as 25yo Hector Lopez from Springfield, MA were arrested on charges of possession of cocaine, possession of regulated drugs, fentanyl trafficking, and dispensing out of a dwelling. Lopez was further charged with transportation of regulated drugs into a detention facility as he was found to have concealed a large quantity of narcotics in a body cavity upon processing at the correctional center.

Lopez was lodged at the Northeast Correctional Facility in lieu of \$25,000 bail and is due to appear in Washington Superior Court on October 2, 2023. Austin and Mason were flash-cited to appear on October 2, 2023 and Braley was cited to appear on November 9, 2023.