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Federal Sting Operation: Man Admits to Conspiring to Distribute Over 200 Kilograms of Cocaine in St. Thomas

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ST. THOMAS — United States Attorney Delia L. Smith announced Friday that Kelly Bruney, 36, of St. Thomas pleaded guilty on October 11, 2023 before United States Magistrate Judge Ruth Miller to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine.

According to court documents, in January 2022, Bruney and a co-conspirator arranged to sell 200 kilograms of cocaine to U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) undercover agents. As part of the deal, on February 3, 2022, Bruney and his co-conspirator were to deliver 86 kilograms of cocaine to the undercover agents.

That same day, federal agents raided a residence in Frenchtown and recovered 87 kilograms of cocaine and a Glock pistol. Bruney's coconspirator was found hiding inside a closet in the residence and Bruney was arrested a short time later driving a truck in the area of the residence.

This case was investigated by the DEA, Homeland Security Investigations, Air Marine Operations, Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, United States Postal Inspection Service, and the Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands Police Departments. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Kyle Payne.

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