

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Woman Being Evicted From Walter I.M. Hodge Arrested For Selling Apartment Fridge

Resident arrested for allegedly selling public housing property, facing serious legal repercussions

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The VIPD has not provided a mugshot of the suspect. Above, the completed renovations on the first 82 units of the Walter IM Hodge Pavilion in Frederiksted, St. Croix on Oct. 5, 2023. By. GOV'T HOUSE

ST. CROIX — A former resident of a public housing community is facing felony charges after being accused of selling an appliance which belongs to the unit.

According to court documents, police were called in on Wednesday by the assistant manager of the Walter I.M. Hodge Pavilion in reference to a tenant who reportedly removed a refrigerator from the apartment.

Responding officers were told that another resident of the housing complex spotted Shamyra Alicea that morning selling the appliance to a male individual for the sum of \$200. The assistant manager said that subsequently, an inspection was conducted at the apartment as part of an ongoing eviction process, and it was discovered that the refrigerator — property of the complex's management company — was indeed missing from the unit.

The assistant manager showed police a copy of the lease agreement which reportedly confirmed that the refrigerator was present in the apartment when Alicea took residence.

Police made contact with Alicea, who was still in the apartment, and confirmed with her that she did in fact sell the fridge, according to court documents. However, she said that she had not yet received payment for it. When asked who she had sold the item to, Alicea reportedly told officers that she didn't know. The appliance is reportedly worth almost \$700.

Alicea was promptly arrested and charged with grand larceny, and remanded to await her advice of rights hearing.

In court on Thursday, Magistrate Yolan Brow Ross found probable cause to uphold the charge against Alicea, but continued the matter until Friday "to allow for defense counsel to obtain suitable release conditions," according to court documents. No public records of Friday's hearing have been made available as of press time, however her arraignment has been scheduled for March 6.