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Police Find Cocaine During Traffic Stop Search; Driver Says He “Didn’t Know” Drugs Were In Unregistered, Uninsured Car

An attempt to flee from traffic stop uncovers narcotics in unregistered vehicle

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Mugshot of Jevon Trotman. By. THE VIRGIN ISLANDS POLICE DEPARTMENT

ST. JOHN — A man who reportedly tried to flee a traffic stop is now facing felony charges for narcotics and reckless endangerment after police reportedly found cocaine in his vehicle.

On Friday evening around 6:15 p.m., VIPD officers were patrolling the Turpentine Run Road area of the Bovoni Bridge intersection with Benburin “Benny” Stephens Drive, when they saw a silver

Toyota Yaris traveling westward on Turpentine Run road.

The Yaris, according to police, had no registration sticker or front license plate visible, and its front windshield was tinted past the regulation line. The two officers made a u-turn in their marked police vehicle, turned on their lights, and attempted to conduct a traffic stop.

The Yaris, however, reportedly sped up and drove towards three vehicles traveling in the opposite lane, each of which had to undertake evasive maneuvers to avoid colliding with the silver car.

According to court documents, police watched as the Yaris made an abrupt right turn onto Mariendahl road, in front of oncoming traffic, and then an immediate left, parking in front of a residence identified as that of Jevon Trotman. The driver, subsequently identified as Trotman himself, emerged carrying groceries.

Police rejected his initial attempt to say that he was unaware that he was being followed, after which Trotman admitted to not having any “papers” for the vehicle.

One of the officers approached the now-parked vehicle and reportedly smelled the odor of marijuana coming from inside, which prompted a search of the Yaris.

In the glove compartment, police reportedly found a brown paper bag with small transparent plastic bags inside. The bags contained a white powdery substance which a test kit identified as cocaine. Trotman reportedly told police that he had “no idea” cocaine was in the vehicle, but was nonetheless detained.

In total, police found 78 grams of cocaine in the brown paper bag. Additionally, further investigation revealed that the silver Yaris was unregistered and uninsured. The license plate the vehicle bore was registered to a Ford pickup, not the Toyota sedan.

Trotman was then arrested and charged with possession of cocaine with intent to distribute, simple possession, first-degree reckless endangerment, and obstruction of justice. He was remanded into custody after bail was initially set at \$45,000.

In court on Monday, Magistrate Sione VanHoltten-Turnbull found probable cause to uphold all the charges against Trotman, and maintained bail as set, payable in full. Although details of Monday’s advice of rights hearing have not yet been made publicly available as of press time, court records indicated that Trotman’s bail requirement has been satisfied.

His next court appearance has been scheduled for March 22.