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Son Shot By Father During Self-Defense Response Dies at Hospital

After threatening his father with a machete and a battery-powered reciprocating saw, the 44-year-old man was shot three times; he underwent emergency surgery but later succumbed to his injuries

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VIPD units on location of the homicide in Sion Hill on May 30th, 2024.

ST. CROIX — A man who had violently approached his father with a machete and later a battery-powered reciprocating saw died from gunshot injuries at the Juan F. Luis Hospital after being shot by his father in what appears to have been a self-defense response.

The V.I. Police Department is currently investigating the incident that occurred in Sion Hill. Initial reports from the VIPD indicated that the son had died at the scene, but the department later

updated its report to clarify that the victim had undergone emergency surgery. On Friday, the VIPD reported that the son, identified as 44-year-old James, eventually succumbing to his injuries at JFL.

According to the VIPD, at approximately 12:29 p.m. on Thursday, the St. Croix 911 call center received a distressing call reporting that a male individual had been shot in the abdomen by his father. Emergency Medical Services, along with VIPD forensic units, promptly responded to the scene and began their investigation.

According to the updated VIPD report, the incident began when the elderly father was attacked by his son James, who was armed with a machete. A witness intervened to stop the initial attack, causing the son to exit the residence. However, James later returned armed with a battery-powered reciprocating saw and advanced toward his father. In response, the father drew his firearm and fired three shots at his son.

Knowles was transported to JFL where he underwent emergency surgery. Initially reported to be in critical condition, James later succumbed to his injuries.

The VIPD has confirmed the details of the incident and stated that further information will be released as the investigation progresses. The department is urging anyone with information regarding this incident to contact 911, the Criminal Investigation Bureau, Detective S. Donastorg at 340-774-2211 ext. 5575, or Crime Stoppers V.I. at 1-800-222-TIPS.