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Man Charged After Surveillance Links Him to Bag Containing Unlicensed Firearm on St. John

Rae-Shawn Frazer was arrested after footage allegedly showed him dropping a satchel with a loaded Glock near a fence in Cruz Bay. A judge upheld the charges, reduced bail to \$50,000, and restricted his movement pending trial.

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Mugshot of Rae-Shawn Frazer. By. THE VIRGIN ISLANDS CONSORTIUM.

ST. CROIX — A man is facing firearm-related charges after surveillance footage reportedly linked him to a bag containing an unlicensed weapon.

According to court documents, on Friday police on St. John were conducting surveillance in Cruz Bay, monitoring individuals suspected of illegal drug distribution. Among those under observation

was 23-year-old Rae-Shawn Frazer, who, when approached by officers, presented a Florida Driver's License as identification. Officers say they had previously seen him with a satchel slung over his shoulder.

Shortly after the initial contact, one of the officers discovered a satchel on the ground near a white picket fence. With no one nearby claiming ownership, police searched the bag and reportedly found a black .40 cal Glock 23 Gen5 handgun with a chambered round. The search also turned up a 15-round magazine loaded with 11 cartridges.

The following day, police reviewed surveillance footage from April 4. Officers say the video "clearly observed" Frazer, wearing the same clothing as during his arrest, standing near the white fence shortly before being stopped. The footage allegedly shows him placing the satchel on the ground inside the gated fence area and then walking away quickly.

When Frazer returned to the area on Monday, police arrested him. He was charged with possession of an unlicensed firearm and unlawful possession of ammunition. Unable to post the initial \$57,500 bail, he was remanded to custody.

During his court appearance on Tuesday, Magistrate Paula Norkaitis found probable cause to uphold both charges. Bail was reduced to \$50,000, with Frazer allowed to post 10% in cash to secure release. He is now restricted to the St. Thomas/St. John/Water Island district and must report to the probation office weekly by phone. He is also prohibited from using alcohol, drugs, or controlled substances while awaiting trial.

Mr. Frazer's next court date is scheduled for April 25.