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St. Thomas Man Arrested in Two Criminal Cases After Alleged Gun Threat, Home Theft, and SUV Tampering

Bruce Wheatley allegedly threatened his uncle with a firearm before being tied to a separate investigation involving the repeated unauthorized use of a Mercedes SUV, leading to multiple felony charges including assault, larceny, and vehicle tampering.

Crime / **Published On July 18, 2025 07:06 AM /**

Staff Consortium **July 18, 2025**

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Mugshot of Bruce Wheatley. By. THE VIRGIN ISLANDS POLICE DEPARTMENT.

ST. THOMAS — A man is now facing charges in two separate cases following his arrest on Wednesday.

Bruce Wheatley was taken into custody after returning to the residence of his uncle, with whom he had previously lived. According to the uncle, Wheatley had been evicted due to ongoing

aggressive and criminal behavior.

The uncle told police that he encountered Wheatley in the backyard on Wednesday evening, sparking a verbal altercation that quickly escalated. Wheatley allegedly began issuing threats, prompting the uncle to retrieve his phone to call 911. At that point, the uncle said he saw Wheatley charging toward him with a gun, reportedly threatening to kill him. Fearing for his life, the uncle fled on foot to a nearby police station to report the incident.

Wheatley was later detained, and his uncle returned home, where he discovered that a gold chain valued at \$3,500 was missing from inside the house. When questioned by police, Wheatley produced the chain, claiming he had found it on the front porch.

He was arrested and charged with third-degree assault, grand larceny, buying, receiving, or possessing stolen property, and unauthorized entry into a dwelling.

While in custody, police determined that Wheatley was also a suspect in a separate case involving the repeated unauthorized use of a Mercedes Benz SUV.

The vehicle's owner had filed multiple reports stating that someone had been entering and operating the SUV without permission. Surveillance footage reportedly identified Wheatley as the individual responsible.

During one such incident, Wheatley allegedly damaged the front windshield while trying to bypass a steering wheel lock. As a result, the owner removed the device to avoid further damage. Authorities suspect Wheatley may have obtained a duplicate or illegally programmed key to access the vehicle.

After months of evading law enforcement, Wheatley was charged with vehicle tampering, damaging a vehicle, and unauthorized use of a vehicle. He was remanded into custody and appeared before Magistrate Paula Norkaitis on Thursday morning.

However, the outcome of that hearing had not been made public as of press time.