

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Traffic Stop Turns Into Foot Chase as Police Recover Loaded Handgun in Discarded Satchel

Authorities allege a man fled an ATV stop outside Nuvo Lounge, discarded a satchel later found with a loaded firearm and ammunition, and lacked licenses, registration, insurance, and proper plates.

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Mugshot of Angel Guerrero. By. THE VIRGIN ISLANDS POLICE DEPARTMENT.

ST. THOMAS — A man was arrested on multiple charges, including a felony firearms offense, after police said he fled a traffic stop and discarded a satchel later found to contain a loaded handgun and ammunition.

According to police, officers observed Angel Guerrero on Sunday night operating a red ATV outside Nuvo Lounge on Norre Gade, where the vehicle was obstructing traffic. As officers approached, Guerrero slowly dismounted the ATV before suddenly running down the roadway with a black satchel strapped across his chest.

Police immediately alerted other units in the area, and Guerrero was detained a short time later near Roosevelt Park. At the time of his detention, officers noted that he no longer had the satchel. A search was then conducted along the route Guerrero had taken while fleeing.

During that search, officers recovered a satchel matching the one seen on Guerrero earlier. Inside the bag, police said, was a loaded Glock 19 handgun along with two extended magazines containing a total of 40 rounds of ammunition. Officers confirmed that the recovered bag was the same satchel observed on Guerrero when they initially made contact.

Police said a records check showed Guerrero did not have a license to carry firearms or ammunition in the territory. In addition, officers determined that the ATV was neither registered nor insured, and that the license plates displayed on the vehicle were not registered to the ATV.

Guerrero was arrested and charged with possession of an unlicensed firearm, possession of ammunition, operating an unregistered vehicle, operating an uninsured vehicle, illegal transfer of plates, and impeding the flow of traffic.

He was scheduled to appear before Magistrate Sione VanHolten-Turnbull on Tuesday, with a second court appearance set for February 6.