

VIPD Says 63 Guns Were Taken Off St. Croix Streets in 2025 as Gunfire Drove 15 of 16 Homicides

In its 2025 recap, VIPD said St. Croix detectives removed 63 firearms, made 108 arrests and investigated 16 homicides, with police saying all but one of the killings were the result of gunfire as 12 cases remained open.

Crime / **Published On March 18, 2026 08:35 AM /**

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Firearms confiscated by the Virgin Islands Police Department as part of its ongoing efforts to remove illegal weapons from the streets. By. VIPD.

ST. CROIX — The V.I. Police Department said in its 2025 recap earlier this week that detectives on St. Croix removed 63 firearms from the streets last year, a figure the department paired with a grim assessment of the island's homicide picture: out of 16 killings in 2025, all but one were the

result of gunfire.

The figures were presented in a video published Sunday, which VIPD said was intended to provide the community with an overview of investigative efforts, progress made throughout the year, and the continued work being done to enhance public safety in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The presentation opened with St. Thomas-St. John-Water Island Chief of Police Deborah Hodge, who said the recap could be viewed as the state of VIPD from an operational perspective. She said each island has its own dynamics, but that the districts have recognized how connected they are and have “made a commitment to join forces in the fight against crime.”

For St. Croix, the update was delivered by Lieutenant Marisol Colon, commander for the Criminal Investigation Bureau on the island. Colon said the bureau had 445 cases assigned in 2025, including 42 domestic violence cases. She said detectives made 108 arrests during the year, with 23 of those tied to homicide or serious assault matters, according to the department’s recap.

Colon said detectives also removed 63 firearms from the streets in 2025. She added that the majority of those firearms were confiscated by one detective assigned to the Major Crime Unit, a result she singled out for praise during the presentation.

The firearm figure carried added weight in light of the department’s homicide data. Colon said St. Croix recorded 16 homicides in 2025. “It’s sad to say that out of 16 homicides, for the exception of one, everything was as a result of gunfire,” she said.

According to Colon, two of those homicide cases resulted in arrests. She said the June 25, 2025 killing of Jordan Jones at the boardwalk led to the arrest of a 15-year-old minor who was bound over as an adult and is awaiting trial. Colon said [Angelo Javier Carmona](#) is awaiting trial on murder, first-degree assault, third-degree assault, reckless endangerment, robbery, and unauthorized possession of a firearm charges.

Colon also stated that the [Dec. 30, 2025 killing](#) of Janice Rivera at Estate Rattan led to the arrest of Jaden M. Francis, 22, who she said was charged with murder, reckless endangerment and possession of a firearm and is awaiting trial.

The presentation also addressed two police shooting involvement cases on St. Croix. The commander said Keja Andreos was killed on Jan. 5, 2025 in Frederiksted, and Alejandro Torres was killed on July 17, 2025 at LBJ Gardens in Christiansted. In both cases, she said detectives in the Criminal Investigation Bureau’s Major Crime Unit had completed their investigations and were awaiting the Office of the Attorney General to conclude its part.

Colon said 12 homicide cases remained pending and were still actively under investigation, with some awaiting DNA and other results from the FBI. In the recap, she listed those open cases as Ray Romero, Jan. 10, 2025 at Escape; Juan Ramos, Feb. 1, 2025 on Queen Street in Frederiksted; Daniym Heywood, Feb. 1, 2025 on Queen Street in Frederiksted; Alex Burgos, March 12, 2025 in Sunny Isles; Isaiah Fox, April 7, 2025 at King and Cross streets in Frederiksted; Kysian A. Nicholas, April 17, 2025; Edna Smith, April 21, 2025; Dasha Graham, June 21, 2025; Jermaine, Oct. 17, 2025; Eva Ramon, Nov. 14, 2025; Malik Francis, Nov. 17, 2025; and D’Andre Friday, Dec. 27, 2025.

Alongside the open cases, Colon highlighted several convictions and guilty pleas in earlier homicide matters. She said Ryan Branch pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the April 2, 2023 killing of Milton Gordon on Company Street in Christiansted. She said Jared Dover pleaded

guilty to voluntary manslaughter in the July 27, 2024 killing of Michael Edwards on the boardwalk. She also said Curtis Tongue was sentenced to life in prison in the Oct. 23, 2024 killing of Kwan Sahib at Lorraine Village, and that Carlos Ayala pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter in the Oct. 25, 2024 killing of Errol Stephen St. Jean at the Walter I.M. Hodge Pavilion.

Colon said investigators continue to encounter cases where multiple people appear to have seen what happened, but few are willing to provide information. “I am asking the community to please help us. Help us, to help you,” Colon said. “We can do our investigation but the information comes from you.”

St. Croix Chief of Police Uston Cornelius echoed the call for community involvement. He said police cannot do the work alone and urged residents, when possible, to invest in cameras for their homes or businesses, saying technology can help investigators even when people are reluctant to speak publicly.