

The Virgin Islands Consortium

VIPD Officer Eustace Charles Fatally Shot in Williams Delight; FBI Joins Investigation

VIPD Officer Eustace Charles, 51, was found unresponsive in a vehicle with multiple gunshot wounds in Williams Delight early Sunday. VIPD and the FBI are jointly investigating, while Commissioner Mario Brooks urged the suspect to surrender immediately.

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Police vehicles and investigators secure a residential street in Williams Delight after VIPD Officer Eustace Charles was found fatally shot inside a vehicle early Sunday morning.

ST. CROIX — The V.I. Police Department and Federal Bureau of Investigation are investigating the fatal shooting of VIPD Officer Eustace Charles, who was found inside a vehicle with multiple gunshot wounds in Williams Delight early Sunday morning.

Mr. Charles, 51, was assigned to VIPD's Executive Security Unit, assigned to Lieutenant Governor Tregenza Roach.

According to VIPD Director of Communications Glen Dratte, the 911 Emergency Call Center received notification of shots fired in Williams Delight at approximately 5:50 a.m. on July 26.

Responding officers found Mr. Charles unresponsive inside the vehicle with multiple gunshot wounds.

Emergency Medical Technicians determined that he had no vital signs.

Police Commissioner Mario Brooks expressed grief over the officer's death and extended condolences to his relatives, friends and colleagues within VIPD.

"We offer our deepest, most sincere condolences to Officer Charles family, loved ones, and friends during this unimaginable time of grief. We extend those same heart-felt condolences to his brothers and sisters within the Virgin Islands Police Department family," he said. "Officer Charles served his community with honor and dedication, and his sacrifice will never be forgotten."

Mr. Brooks also directly addressed the suspect, whom police said remained at large. "To the suspect currently at large I only have three words for you, "turn yourself in". We will not rest, we will not slow down, and we will use every resource available until we catch you."

VIPD and FBI Conducting Joint Investigation.

VIPD said the investigation will be conducted jointly with the FBI.

Anyone with information about the killing is asked to call 911 or contact the Criminal Investigation Bureau at 340-778-2211.

Anonymous information may also be submitted to Crime Stoppers V.I. at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).