

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Update: Escapee as Samuel Rivera Jr. Now in Custody

The VIPD says Samuel Rivera Jr., also known as "Pilie," is now in custody after escaping police custody while still handcuffed. Authorities had launched a public search, warning residents not to approach him because he was considered armed and dangerous.

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Mugshot of Samuel Rivera Jr. By. THE VIRGIN ISLANDS POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Update: ST. CROIX — The Virgin Islands Police Department announced that Samuel Rivera Jr., also known as "Pilie," is now in custody, ending a search that began after authorities said he escaped police custody while still in handcuffs. Rivera had been considered armed and dangerous and was wanted on a charge of carrying a firearm openly or concealed.

Original Story: VIPD said Rivera is wanted for carrying a firearm openly or concealed, according to a wanted-person notice issued Monday by the department's Forensic and Identification Section and Criminal Investigation Bureau.

Authorities said Rivera fled police custody and was last seen near Diamond Ruby, in the vicinity of Juan F. Luis Hospital. At the time, he was wearing a white tank top, dark knee-length jeans and no shoes.

The department warned members of the public not to approach Rivera, describing him as armed and dangerous.

According to the wanted-person notice, Rivera is 5 feet, 6 inches tall and weighs approximately 139 pounds. He has black hair and brown eyes and is listed as a self-employed fisherman.

Police said Rivera is known to frequent Princess, Harbor View, Richmond, Calquohoun and Profit.

Anyone who sees Rivera is urged to call 911 or contact the Wilbur Francis Command at 340-778-2211. Anyone with information concerning his whereabouts may also contact Crime Stoppers USVI at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).