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VIPD Identifies Armed and Dangerous Escapee as Samuel Rivera Jr., Wanted on Firearm Charge

The Virgin Islands Police Department says Samuel Rivera Jr., 29, escaped custody while handcuffed and is wanted for carrying a firearm openly or concealed. Police warn that he is armed and dangerous and urge anyone who sees him to call 911 immediately.

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

ST. CROIX — The V.I. Police Department has identified an armed and dangerous man who escaped police custody while still handcuffed as Samuel Rivera Jr., a 29-year-old St. Croix resident also known as “Pilie.”

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).