

The Virgin Islands Consortium

St. Croix Man Facing 27 Years In Jail For Robbing Quality Foods Of \$24K

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ST. CROIX -- On Tuesday, August 18, 2015, Edigberto Diaz, 46, pleaded guilty in District Court here to interference with commerce by robbery and using and carrying a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence, United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe announced on Wednesday.

According to the plea agreement filed with the court, on June 21, 2014, Diaz and an accomplice entered Quality Foods in Estate Castle Coakley armed with handguns. Diaz and the accomplice entered into an office area, pointed their handguns at two individuals and demanded that they open the safe.

Diaz and his accomplice removed \$24,289.17 in cash and checks that were in deposit bags inside the safe. They also took cellular telephones, a music player, laptop computer, checkbook and backpacks from the victims. Subsequently, police arrived at the scene of the crime and arrested Diaz, who was carrying a Smith and Wesson .40 caliber semiautomatic handgun with an obliterated serial number containing 14 rounds of ammunition.

Diaz faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000.00 fine for the robbery charge and a mandatory seven years and \$250,000.00 fine for the gun charge. A sentencing date has been set for December 17, 2015.

This case was investigated by the Virgin Islands Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rhonda Williams-Henry.