

The Virgin Islands Consortium

St. Croix Man Facing 27 Years In Jail, \$500K Fine For Robbing Castle Coakley Store At Gunpoint

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ST. CROIX -- On Thursday, January 14, Daniel Ramos, 40, pleaded guilty in federal court here to one count of interference with commerce by robbery and one count of using and carrying a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence, United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe announced.

According to the plea agreement filed with the court, on June 21, 2014, Mr. Ramos and Mr. Edigberto Diaz, 46, entered Quality Foods located at Estate Castle Coakley. Mr. Diaz was carrying a Smith and Wesson .40 caliber semiautomatic handgun with an obliterated serial number containing 14 rounds of ammunition, and Mr. Ramos carried a toy gun. They entered into an office area, pointed the guns at two individuals and demanded that

they open the safe. Mr. Ramos and Mr. Diaz removed \$24,289.17 in cash and checks. They also took personal items belonging to the victims.

Mr. Ramos faces a maximum of 20 years and a \$250,000.00 fine on the robbery count and a mandatory seven years and a \$250,000.00 fine on the gun count. A sentencing date has been set for May 23, 2016. Mr. Diaz [pleaded guilty on August 18, 2015](#), to the same counts and will be sentenced on February 19, 2016.

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.

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