

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Homeless Man Shot Multiple Times In St. Thomas; Police Identify Suspect

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Ernice Gilbert **May 09, 2016**



ST. THOMAS -- A homeless and mentally challenged black male was shot multiple times here on Saturday just before 6:00 p.m., during what Police Commissioner Delroy Richards said was most likely an attempt to beg for money or food. The commissioner said police have identified the suspect who remains on the loose, but a manhunt is underway.

According to Mr. Richards, the incident occurred at the aforesaid time at Ezzart Tires, located in the vicinity of Mahogany Estate. He said the victim is accustomed to visit the business soliciting aid -- money and food, for example -- and had been turned away each time, and was told to stop frequenting the business.

On Saturday, the victim again visited the business and was chased once more, according to Mr. Richards. The victim then approached a man sitting on the outside of the business. "The suspect indicated that he didn't want the homeless man to approach him," Mr. Richards said. "But the victim continued to walk towards the suspect, who then drew a firearm and fired several shots, shooting the victim in the chest, shoulder and hip, and proceeded to flee the scene," the commissioner said. The victim received treatment at the Roy Lester Schneider Hospital for his injuries.

Mr. Richards said police were able to get a description of the suspect, who he said was described as a black male with dreadlocks. Mr. Richards said while he understands that some people don't like to be bothered, "that's no reason to shoot somebody," he said. "It's another example of these guys believing that they could do whatever they want. But we have a good idea of who it is and we're going to pick he up."

Police are asking anyone with additional information about the incident to contact the Major Crimes at 340-714-9823 ext. 5617, Criminal Investigation Bureau at 340-714-9807 ext. 5556, Crime Stoppers or the Chief's Office at 340-774-2211.