

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Community Tip Leads to Arrest of Man With Illegal Firearm

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Bernard Hodge By. VIPD

ST. CROIX — On Wednesday at roughly 8:13 a.m., police placed 27-year-old Bernard Hodge of Estate Richmond under arrest, charging him with possession of an unlicensed firearm and possession or sale of ammunition.

According to V.I.P.D. Public Information Officer Toby Derima, an officer was notified by a concerned citizen of a firearm in an unsecured vehicle. Hodge, the owner of the vehicle, admitted to owning the firearm. A check of the Firearm Bureau's records revealed Hodge was not licensed to possess a firearm in the territory. He was placed under arrest as a

result.

Unable to make bail of \$50,000, Hodge was remanded to the Golden Grove Detention Center pending his advisement hearing.

St. Croix District Chief of Police Sidney Elskoe commended the citizen for contacting the police officer to report the illegal firearm. "Thank you for speaking up. We encourage everyone to say something to us when they see illegal activity," Chief Elskoe said.

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