

The Virgin Islands Consortium

St. Croix Men Plead Guilty To Firearm Charges, Face 10-Year Jail Sentence

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ST. CROIX -- Winston Curtis Venner, 34, pleaded guilty on August 4, 2016, in federal court here to felon in possession of a firearm, United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe announced Friday.

According to the plea agreement filed with the court, police officers stopped Venner's vehicle on Rattan Road.

He was the sole occupant of the vehicle. Officers observed and seized a pistol from inside the vehicle. Venner was previously convicted of assault third degree in 2005 in the Virgin Islands Superior Court. Venner faces a maximum of 10 years of incarceration and

a maximum fine of \$250,000. A sentencing date has been set for December 7, 2016.

The case was investigated by the Virgin Islands Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Alphonso Andrews, Jr.

On August 5, Dwayne Wesselhoft, 29, pleaded guilty in federal court in St. Croix to possession of a firearm by an unlawful user of a controlled substance, United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe announced.

According to court records, on October 1, 2015, agents from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) conducted a consent search at Wesselhoft's residence located at 141 Clifton Hill. The search uncovered a 9mm Luger pistol in the master bedroom which Wesselhoft admitted was his. The agents also found a container with marijuana. Wesselhoft admitted to smoking two marijuana "joints" per day for the past five-six years. He faces a maximum of 10 years of incarceration and a maximum fine of \$250,000.

A sentencing date has been set for December 7, 2016. The case was investigated by the DEA and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Alphonso Andrews, Jr.