

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Bystander Shot in Back During Shootout at Walter I.M. Hodge Housing Community; 1 of Multiple Suspects in Custody

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Mugshot of Jahamon Bruce By. THE VIRGIN ISLANDS POLICE DEPARTMENT

ST. CROIX — A woman was shot in the back after being caught in the crossfire during a shootout at the Walter I.M. Hodge Pavilion housing community Wednesday morning, V.I.P.D. Public Information Officer Toby Derima has announced.

According to the police report, on Wednesday at approximately 8:18 a.m., the 911 Emergency Call Center received multiple reports of shots being fired at the housing community and dispatched officers to the scene.

Several witnesses reported that multiple black males in a vehicle entered into the housing community and began damaging a vehicle, Mr. Derima said. According to the witnesses, the owner of the vehicle, later identified as 22-year-old Jahamon Bruce of Walter I.M. Hodge Pavilion, appeared on the scene with a firearm, at which time the males who damaged the vehicle began shooting at him. Bruce returned fire, prompting the group of males to leave the area in their vehicle.

A female bystander received a gunshot wound to the back and was transported to the Juan F. Luis Hospital & Medical Center via private vehicle. The victim underwent surgery and was listed in stable condition, Mr. Derima said.

Bruce admitted to detectives that he fired the gun and was placed under arrest around 10:30 a.m. and charged with carrying a firearm openly or concealed, police said.

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