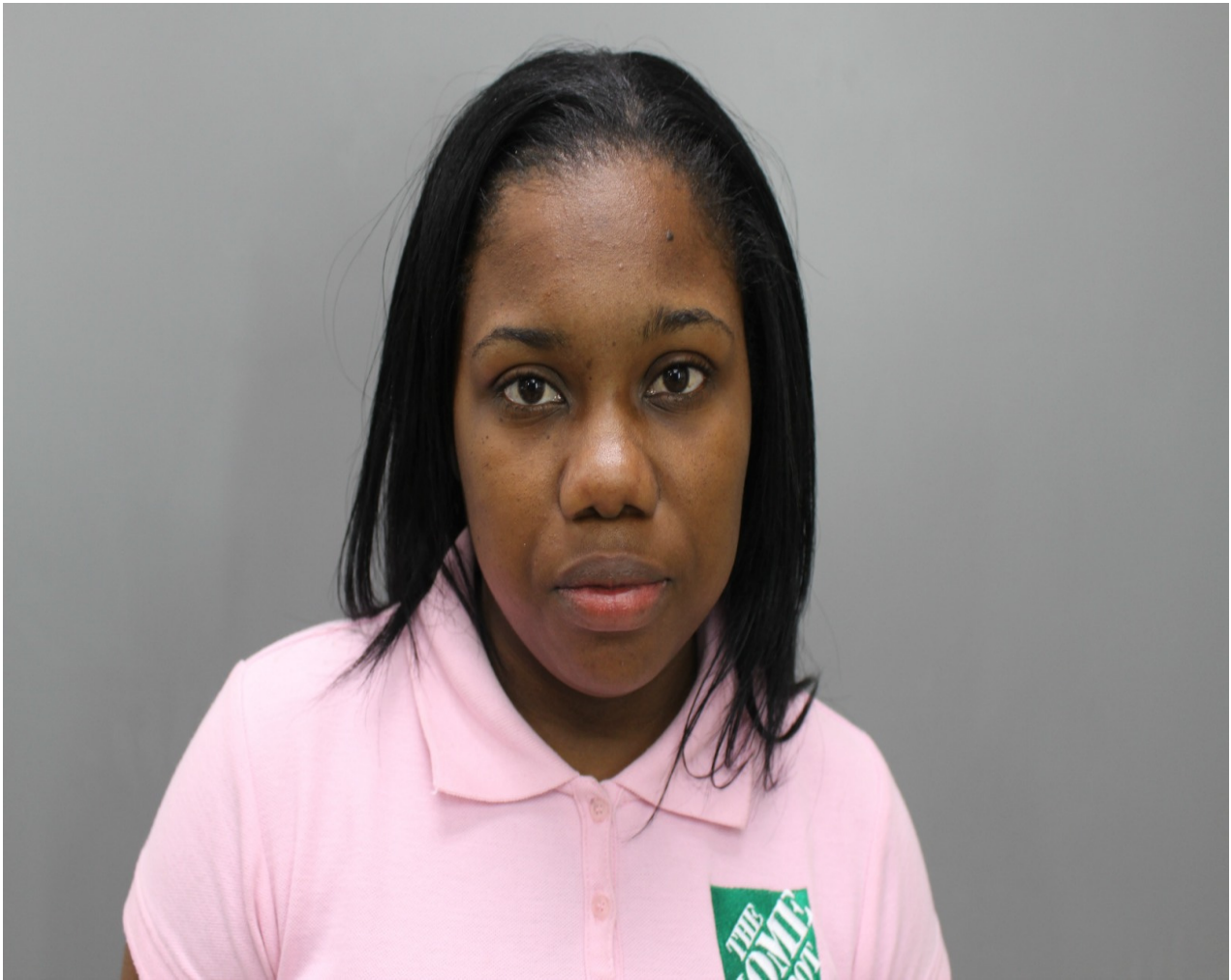


The Virgin Islands Consortium

Home Depot St. Thomas Employee Arrested After Being Caught On Tape Stealing Cash From Register

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ST. THOMAS -- A 25-year-old St. Thomas woman has been advised of her rights on a single charge of embezzlement after being caught on tape stealing money at the Home Depot store in St. Thomas, where she worked, V.I. Department of Justice Public Media Officer Corliss Smithen has announced.

Le'Nique Abbott of Altona appeared before Magistrate Henry Carr III on Wednesday for her initial court hearing following her arrest on Feb. 19.

Magistrate Carr ruled that there was probable cause to sustain the charge and to move the case forward. He then allowed Ms. Abbott to be released from custody by posting a

\$10,000 unsecured appearance bond and ordered her to abide by a number of court-imposed bail conditions, which include having no contact with witnesses and surrendering her passport.

According to a probable cause fact sheet filed by Officer Felipe Pereira, Ms. Abbott worked as a cashier at the Home Depot store. Video surveillance footage obtained from the store showed Ms. Abbott taking money from the store's cash register. Ms. Abbott admitted to her employer and police that she stole about \$5,000 over the period Dec. 9, 2016 to Feb. 18.

Ms. Abbott also used another employee's ID to pilfer the money and passed merchandise without ringing up the merchandise causing a loss to the company, according to Pereira.

Ms. Abbott is scheduled to return to court on Mar. 9 for her arraignment hearing, at which she will formally answer to the charge.