

The Virgin Islands Consortium

St. Croix Sees Second Homicide In 2018 After Man Is Found Dead Near New Housing Community

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ST. CROIX -- A man was found dead at an abandoned house near The Meadows, a new housing community just north of Strawberry Hill, V.I.P.D. Public Information Officer Glen Dratte confirmed to The Consortium late Tuesday. The crime, which has been classified a homicide, brings St. Croix's count for 2018 to two, as it follows the [deadly shooting in the St. Croix Festival Village in January](#).

According to Mr. Dratte, the body was discovered by police who were patrolling the Bonne Esperance community -- which The Meadows is a part of -- at 1:17 a.m. Tuesday. Mr. Dratte said police saw the victim lying lifeless next to an abandoned home with multiple gunshot wounds about his body.

No gunshots were heard, Mr. Dratte said, but it appears that the shooting occurred where the victim was found, as shell casings were discovered in the area, he said. The time the incident occurred remains unclear.

The deceased has been identified as Julio Cruz, 44.

Police are asking anyone with information about this homicide to contact the Criminal Investigation Bureau at 340-778-2211, or Crime Stoppers USVI [here](#).

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