

The Virgin Islands Consortium

As Violent Crime Escalates, U.S. Attorney's Office And FBI Announce Territorial Law Enforcement Training In Support Of Project Safe Neighborhoods

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United States Attorney Gretchen Shappert and Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent in Charge Douglas A. Leff announced on Monday an upcoming interview and interrogation seminar for federal and territorial law enforcement scheduled for July 30 and 31 on St. Thomas.

According to the release, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) trainers from the Washington D.C. field office will conduct the training. The training supports Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), the Department of Justice's primary initiative to reduce violent

crime and ensure public safety. Both the U.S. Attorney's Office and the FBI participate in PSN initiatives.

Project Safe Neighborhoods contains five key components: leadership by the United States Attorney's Office; partnerships at all levels of law enforcement and the community; targets and prioritized enforcement that focuses on apprehending the worst-of-the-worst for federal prosecution; prevention of additional violence through locally based information and outreach initiatives; and accountability for results, measured by effective outcomes.

The training comes at a time violent crime has been on an uptick in recent months, with at least four homicides occurring on St. Croix this month alone: one [on a basketball court in Campo Rico](#), another [at a strip club located at the Diamond Crest Plaza](#), yet another [in the Diamond Crest parking lot on Sunday](#), and the remains of a man [was recovered in a charred vehicle in Hams Bluff on Monday morning](#). The situation on St. Thomas [is almost equally as troubling](#).