

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Former DLCA Enforcement Officer Who Sought to Bribe an Illegal Immigrant Into Sexual Favors Sentenced to 41 Months in Prison

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ST. THOMAS — A former Dept. of Licensing and Consumer Affairs (DLCA) enforcement officer who sought to bribe an illegal immigrant into sexual favors was sentenced on Thursday to 41 months in federal prison, announced United States Attorney Gretchen C.F. Shappert.

According to Shappert, Robert Defreitas, formerly a sworn law enforcement officer with DLCA, was sentenced to 41 months in prison for Travel Act Bribery and solicitation of a bribe by a public employee. Defreitas was convicted of these offenses following a jury

trial in December 2019.

According to the evidence presented at trial, in August 2018 Defreitas assisted with a DLCA inspection of a St. Thomas business, during which time he discovered that one of the company's workers had not entered the country by legal means. Defreitas attempted to use this information against the victim. The victim later recorded a phone call in which Defreitas sought sexual favors in return for not reporting the victim's immigration status, and this recording was played for the jury during the prosecution's case-in-chief.

This case was investigated by the Virgin Islands Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nathan Brooks.

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