

St. Thomas Man Gets Over 5 Years in Federal Prison for Being Felon in Possession of a Firearm

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ST. THOMAS — The United States Attorney Gretchen C.F. Shappert announced Friday that Jabari Hodge, 30, of St. Thomas, was sentenced to 71 months in prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm followed by a three year term of supervised release.

According to court documents, on October 6, 2019 at approximately 1:10 a.m., VIPD officers approached the defendant, who was sitting in the driver's seat of his parked vehicle, with the driver's side door open, in the parking lot of a shopping center in the Red Hook area. Upon approaching, one of the officers noticed the smell of marijuana coming from the vehicle. The officer saw what appeared to be a marijuana on the floorboard near the defendant's feet. Another VIPD officer noticed a partially-opened bag with what appeared to be a jar containing marijuana inside.

The officers informed the defendant that they were going to search the vehicle, at which point the defendant stated, "Just take the weed and let me go." The officers proceeded to search the vehicle and located a fully loaded, silver and black 9mm Kel tec handgun with one round in the chamber and seven rounds in the magazine.

Prior to his October 6, 2019 apprehension, the defendant had been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year and was not authorized to possess a firearm under federal law.

This case was investigated by the Virgin Islands Police Department in conjunction with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Juan A. Albino.

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