

The Virgin Islands Consortium

St. Croix Man Apprehended With Guns, Ammunition, Drugs and Money Pleads Guilty to Federal Firearms Charge

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ST. CROIX — Rakem Hendrickson, 28, of St. Croix, appeared before Magistrate Judge George W. Cannon, Jr., in District Court and entered a guilty plea to the charge of use of a firearm during a drug trafficking crime, United States Attorney Gretchen C.F. Shappert announced.

This offense carries a possible sentence of incarceration for a minimum of 5 years, a maximum fine of up to \$250,000 dollars, and a term of supervised release up to 5 years. Sentencing is set for April 14, 2021.

According to court documents, on February 16, 2018, the Virgin Islands Police Department received a tip from a concerned citizen that Hendrickson was selling drugs from his Jeep Wrangler, that Hendrickson was known to carry a firearm, and that he routinely parked the Jeep in the vicinity of Dynasty (Paul's) Grocery Store. VIPD officers set up surveillance at that location and thereafter observed Hendrickson, park and exit his vehicle.

Officers observed drug paraphernalia consisting of a clear plastic bag containing multiple vials in plain view, located in the back of Hendrickson's Jeep. Shortly thereafter, officers obtained and executed a search warrant. As a result, officers located and confiscated a loaded Glock 22 Austria handgun, 2 additional magazines, 82 rounds of ammunition, approximately 133 grams of marijuana, drug paraphernalia in the form of 94 plastic vials, a digital scale, 2 mason jars, plastic baggies, and \$2,584 cash. The foregoing occurred within 1,000 feet of the Lew Muckle Elementary School.

The case was investigated by the Virgin Islands Police Department and Homeland Security Investigations. The DEA Southeast Laboratory in Miami analyzed the marijuana. Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel H. Huston prosecuted the case.