

The Virgin Islands Consortium

St. Croix Man Who Possessed Firearm In School Zone Sentenced To 5 Years Federal Probation

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ST. CROIX — United States Attorney Gretchen C.F. Shappert announced today that Samuel Melendez, 43, was sentenced on November 21 after being convicted of possession of firearm in a school zone.

District Court Chief Judge Wilma A. Lewis sentenced Melendez to 5 years of Federal probation, a \$1000 fine and ordered Melendez to pay a special assessment of \$100.

According to court documents, on or about October 8, 2018, Samuel Melendez possessed a Jimenez Arms .380 Semi-Automatic pistol at the Frederiksted vegetable market, which is within 1000 feet of St. Patrick's Elementary School. The firearm was

tested and found to be operable. The Defendant did not have a valid license to possess a firearm, and the firearm had moved in and affected interstate commerce

The case was investigated by the Virgin Islands Police Department and Homeland Security Investigations. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Melissa P. Ortiz.

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