

The Virgin Islands Consortium

St. Croix Man Previously Convicted of Felony Pleads Guilty to Firearm Charge in Federal Court

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ST. CROIX — U.S. Attorney Gretchen C.F. Shappert announced Thursday that Lionel Woodley, 35, of St. Croix, appeared before Magistrate Judge George W. Cannon, Jr., in U.S. District Court on St. Croix and entered a guilty plea on Friday to the charge of felon in possession of firearm.

According to court documents, on March 17, 2019, Virgin Islands Police Department officers stopped the vehicle driven by Woodley at around 11:30 p.m. for failing to observe a stop sign and passing on a double yellow line. During the traffic stop, V.I.P.D. officers noticed the odor of marijuana emanating from Woodley's vehicle. The officers searched the vehicle and located a revolver in the center console, a bag on the front seat

containing approximately 20 grams of marijuana, approximately 7 grams of cocaine, along with \$105.00, and a scale. Police also found and seized \$701 on Woodley's person. Woodley did not have a license to possess the firearm and had previously been convicted of the felony offense of Attempted Robbery Second Degree by the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands.

This offense carries a possible sentence of incarceration of up to 10 years, a maximum fine of up to \$250,000 dollars, and a term of supervised release of at least 2 years. Sentencing is set for October 1, 2021.

The V.I.P.D. and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) investigated the case.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel H. Huston prosecuted the case.

This case is part of the Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide initiative that brings together federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement officials, prosecutors, and community leaders to identify the most pressing violent crime problems in a community and develop comprehensive solutions to address them. For more information on the Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhoods, please see: <https://www.justice.gov/psn>.