

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Man Charged With First-Degree Murder in Connection With March 2nd Killing of National Guard Service Member

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Mugshot of Sharif Mathew. By. THE VIRGIN ISLANDS POLICE DEPARTMENT

ST. CROIX — Police have made a second arrest in connection with a [March 2 shooting in Estate Carlton](#) that resulted in the death of National Guard service member Ian Benjamin Sr.

According to V.I.P.D. Public Information Officer Toby Derima, on Friday at 1:49 p.m. Sharif Mathew of Morningstar was arrested and charged with first-degree murder in connection with the shooting death of Benjamin. The suspect was remanded to the

Golden Grove Correctional Facility pending his advisement hearing after failing to make bail of \$1 million.

The suspect was arrested at his residence on a Superior Court warrant, Mr. Derima said. He was previously arrested [on an ammunition charge](#) and was long a person of interest in the case.

Mathew is the second suspect to be arrested as part of the investigation. On March 12, [police arrested](#) Ta’Jhanique Cumberbatch, 22 of Estate Besty’s Jewel in connection with the same homicide.