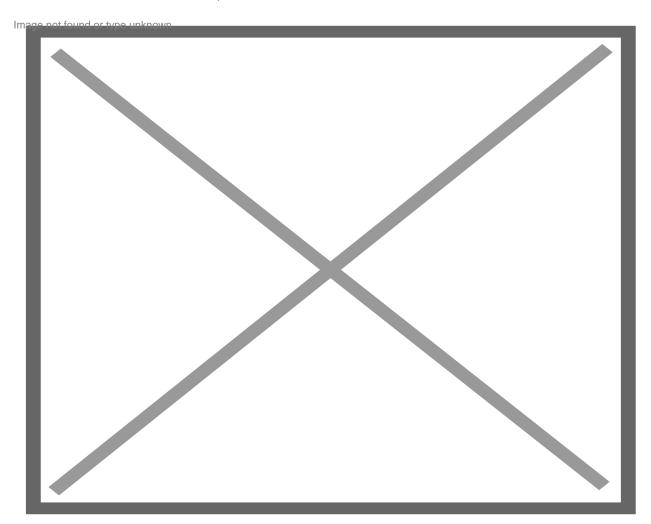
Man Dies After Losing Control of Vehicle, Crashing Into Tree

Accidents / Published On October 14, 2021 12:19 PM /

Staff Consortium October 14, 2021



Scene of accident on the Weymouth Rhymer Highway By. THE VIRGIN ISLANDS POLICE DEPARTMENT

ST. THOMAS — A man succumbed to injuries sustained during an auto collision after losing control of his vehicle while on the Weymouth Rhymer Highway and slamming into a tree, V.I.P.D. Public Information Officer Toby Derima has announced.

According to the news release, on Wednesday at 10:42 p.m., the 911 Emergency Call Center dispatched officers to a one-car accident in the vicinity of the Market Square East shopping center. Officers found a badly damaged silver 1999 Honda Civic, with an injured man inside.

Mr. Derima said an investigation revealed the driver was traveling east at a high rate of speed, lost control and hit a tree on the northern shoulder. Police officers, personnel from the Virgin Islands Fire Service and St. Thomas Rescue removed the driver from the vehicle, and the victim was transported to the Schneider Regional Medical Center via ambulance for treatment.

The driver, identified as 24-year-old Damian LaMotta, succumbed to his injuries at the hospital.

The accident is under investigation by the VIPD's Traffic Investigation Bureau.

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