

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Subcontractor Employee Working at Cyril E. King Airport Who Stashed 4 Kilograms of Cocaine in Men's Bathroom Gets 37 Months Imprisonment

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Cyril E. King Airport By. ERNICE GILBERT, VI CONSORTIUM

ST. THOMAS — U.S. Attorney for the District of the Virgin Islands Gretchen C.F. Shappert announced today that Keilin Lopez Lopez, 22, resident of St. Thomas, was sentenced to 37 months imprisonment followed by a four-year term of supervised release for possessing with intent to distribute approximately 4 kilograms of cocaine.

According to court documents, on July 31, 2020 at approximately 6:30 p.m., a V.I. Port Authority employee witnessed a male tampering with a trashcan in a stall in the male

restroom located inside the Cyril E. King terminal. Officers removed the trashcan from the wall revealing an open recess in between both sides of the interior wall. One large brick-shaped bundle and one small brick-shaped bundle containing approximately 4 kilograms of cocaine were lying at the bottom of the recess where the trashcan was previously inserted.

Airport surveillance footage showed a male, later identified as Keilin Lopez Lopez, wearing a backpack enter the bathroom where the bundles were discovered. Officers located Mr. Lopez who is an employee for a company contracted to work on the airport remodel. After being advised of his constitutional rights, Mr. Lopez waived them and stated he removed the trashcan from the wall in the restroom stall and placed the bundles inside the wall.

This case was investigated by Homeland Security Investigations and U.S. Customs and Border Patrol. Assistant United States Attorney Juan Albino prosecuted the case.

This effort is part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) operation. OCDETF identifies, disrupts, and dismantles the highest-level criminal organizations that threaten the United States using a prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven, multi-agency approach. Additional information about the OCDETF Program can be found at <https://www.justice.gov/OCDETF>.