

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Police Make Firearm-Related Arrests Territory-Wide

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Okechi Brin, left, La-Shorn Samuel, upper right, and Jimmar Payne, lower right. By. THE VIRGIN ISLANDS POLICE DEPARTMENT

The V.I. Police Department over the weekend made several arrests on firearm-related offenses.

St. Thomas Arrest

According to a release issued by the department, on Saturday at about 4:30 a.m., officers on St. Thomas arrested La-Shorn Samuel, age 33 of Estate Wintberg, and him with possession of an unlicensed firearm and possession of ammunition.

Samuel was observed by officers with a loaded handgun, along with several extended magazines, after responding to shots fired in the vicinity of Crystal Gade.

Unable to make bail of \$60,000, Samuel was remanded to the Bureau of Corrections pending his advisement hearing.

St. Croix Arrests

Also on Saturday at 10:18 p.m., officers on St. Croix arrested 28-year-old Jimmar Payne of Estate White Lady, and him with carrying of a firearm openly or concealed. Officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle operated by Payne on the Melvin H. Evans Highway, in the vicinity of the Ricardo Richards Elementary School.

During the course of the traffic stop, officers learned that a firearm was in the vehicle, and Payne could not produce a valid license to possess the firearm.

Unable to post \$50,000 bail, he was remanded to the Bureau of Corrections, pending his Advice of Rights hearing.

On Saturday at 11:28 p.m., police on St. Croix also arrested Okechi Brin, age 28 of Orange Grove and charged him with carrying of a firearm openly or concealed. Officers observed Brin commit a traffic infraction, prompting them to conduct a traffic stop.

During the course of the traffic stop, officers discovered a firearm in the vehicle. Bail for Brin was set at \$50,000, which he could not post. He was subsequently turned over to the custody of the Bureau of Corrections pending his advisement hearing.

Police Commissioner Designee Ray Martinez commended his officers for the arrests, and reminded residents of his promise to crack down on small infractions. "Paying attention to little details can produce big results," he said. "This is only the beginning. We will continue to enforce traffic infractions; that enforcement can and will help us take illegal guns off the street, and reduce the criminal element in the territory."

Mr. Martinez encouraged everyone with information on crimes to contact police by calling 911, the Criminal Investigation Bureau on St. Thomas at (340) 774-2211, the Crime TipLine on St. Croix at (340) 778-4950, or Crime Stoppers USVI at (800) 222-8477 or online at p3tips.com.