

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Saint Petersburg Florida Police Department Provides Training and Other Support to VIPD Crime Scene Technicians on St. Croix

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The V.I. Police Department said Friday that forensic technicians from the Saint Petersburg Florida Police Department (SPPD) recently conducted a professional exchange on St. Croix with crime scene technicians of the V.I.P.D.

This was result of an ongoing private/public collaboration between Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Secunda Family Foundation and the V.I. Police Department, the V.I.P.D. said. "This instructional session is a follow up to an exchange where VIPD technicians visited SPPD in November of 2021," stated the release.

The Forensic Identification Section of the V.I.P.D. processes crime scenes for patrol officers and detectives to identify evidence that might point to the perpetrators of a crime. Unit technicians and detectives use conventional and advanced scientific techniques in their work.

These collaborations are consistent with efforts throughout the U.S. to share best practices and maintain currency with the rapid advancements in forensic sciences as valuable tools to identify, locate and convict criminal predators.

Chief Detective Lt. Naomi Joseph of the V.I.P.D.'s Criminal Investigation Bureau stated, "I am extremely grateful for the extra mile that the St. Petersburg Forensic Unit took to not only donate their used fuming chamber but the help they provided to help us repair our existing unit. The training was timely and needed."

Lt. Joseph further stated, "This training will enhance the knowledge of our new members on the forensic unit and its applications on our real-life crime scenes which will lead to arrest and convictions."