

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Feds Continue Crackdown on Alleged Corruption in Puerto Rico as Mayor and Finance Director of Large City Are Arrested

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Mayaguez, Puerto Rico

The widespread crackdown on alleged government corruption in Puerto Rico continued Wednesday with the arrest of the mayor and the finance director of one of Puerto Rico's largest cities.

A judge approved the arrest of José Guillermo Rodríguez, mayor of the western coastal city of Mayaguez, after finding probable cause in an alleged multimillion-dollar corruption case. The mayor is accused of embezzlement of public funds and breach of duty.

According to the Associated Press, the city's finance director was also arrested. Authorities allege the two diverted \$9 million in public funds meant for improvements at a local trauma center and instead used the money in high-risk investments, the AP reported.

Puerto Rico Gov. Pedro Pierluisi called on Guillermo to resign immediately.

According to the AP, the mayor and finance director are the latest in a string of government officials in Puerto Rico to face state and federal charges as part of a widespread crackdown on alleged corruption.

Harry Padilla, the attorney representing Guillermo, told reporters he does not believe there is any evidence to backup his client's arrest.

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