

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Man Who Was Deported From U.S. Twice Sentenced For Illegal Reentry After Travel Attempt Through Henry E. Rohlsen Airport

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U.S. Customs and Border Protection Field Operation vehicle at the Henry E. Rohlsen Airport on St. Croix. By: V.I. CONSORTIUM

ST. CROIX — United States Attorney Delia L. Smith announced Friday that Reynaldo Mejia-Mejia, 33, of the Dominican Republic, was sentenced today by District Judge Wilma Lewis on his conviction of illegally reentering the United States.

Judge Lewis sentenced Mejia-Mejia to nine months of incarceration followed by one year of supervised release, deportation and was ordered not enter the United States without

first obtaining the permission of the Attorney General or Department of Homeland Security.

According to court documents, on March 23, 2022, Mejia-Mejia presented himself to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) for inspection prior to boarding a Spirit Airlines flight from St. Croix to Fort Lauderdale, FL. He presented a Washington State driver's license in the name of another individual with a photo of his likeness as proof of identification to travel. During his primary inspection, Mejia-Mejia falsely stated that he was born in Puerto Rico, despite speaking with a distinct Dominican Republic accent.

A subsequent fingerprint analysis positively identified Mejia-Mejia as an individual that was previously deported in 2018 and 2019 from the United States to the Dominican Republic. It was further determined that Mejia-Mejia is not a citizen or national of the United States and was not authorized to be present in the United States.

Homeland Security Investigations and U.S. Customs and Border Protection investigated this case and Assistant United States Attorney Melissa Ortiz prosecuted this matter.