

## St. Croix Resident Who Supplied Over 20 Kilos of Cocaine at Cyril E. King Airport Pleads Guilty to Drug Possession with Intent to Distribute

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ST. CROIX — Jakwaan Sweeny, Jr., 21, of St. Croix, pleaded guilty in District Court before Judge Curtis Gomez, to possession with intent to distribute cocaine, United States Attorney Gretchen C.F. Shappert announced.

According to court records, on September 24, 2018, Sweeney provided Shahime Ludvig, Jr. with 22.78 kilos of cocaine at the Cyril E. King Airport and a plane ticket to Atlanta. The cocaine was packaged as 20 individualized bricks and placed in a checked bag. Once in Atlanta, the coconspirator was to deliver the cocaine to another member of the cocaine conspiracy.

On the day of travel, Sweeney's co-conspirator entered the Cyril E. King Airport and checked the bag for the flight. During a routine screening, a specially trained narcotics detection canine "alerted" on the bag. Customs and Border Protection officers in St. Thomas opened the bag and discovered the cocaine. Homeland Security Investigations arrested Ludvig prior to him boarding the flight. Ludvig entered a guilty plea in federal court in 2018.

Under federal law, Sweeney faces a minimum sentence of 10 years in prison and a maximum fine of \$10,000,000.

This case was investigated by Homeland Security Investigations. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Everard E. Potter.

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