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Father and Son Charged with Gun, Ammunition, and Drug Crimes After Fleeing Traffic Stop

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From left to right: Jamal Author and his son, Jamoi Arthur. By. THE VIRGIN ISLANDS POLICE DEPARTMENT.

ST. THOMAS — A father and son appeared before the V.I. Superior Court on Wednesday on gun, ammunition and narcotics charges after reportedly fleeing an attempted traffic stop.

The court heard that police were conducting sector patrol near the Bolongo Bay roadway when they spotted a silver Acura ILX with a tinted license plate cover, traveling east. Officers attempted a traffic stop, turning on the flashers of the marked police vehicle, but the Acura's driver continued down the Bolongo Bay roadway at high speed. Police followed until the vehicles approached the entrance of the Bertha B. Boschulte Middle School, where another police unit lay

ahead of the Acura. The fleeing driver, later identified as Jamal Arthur, immediately made a left turn onto the school compound, driving towards the back of the institution.

Trailing police reportedly observed a black handgun being thrown out of the front right passenger window, before the vehicle came to a complete stop at the back of the school. Officers say they spotted him with a mason jar in his hands, throwing a green leafy substance from the driver's side, which later tested positive for marijuana, according to the probable cause fact sheet.

Arthur and his son Jamoi Arthur were ordered out of the vehicle and patted down. The Acura was then searched, and officers discovered a box of transparent zippered plastic bags, a scale, and marijuana inside. Both men, when questioned, disclosed that they did not have a license to carry a firearm in the USVI, however Jamoi Arthur admitted that the firearm, which he threw out of the moving vehicle, belonged to him.

The father and son were arrested and charged with possession of an unlicensed firearm, possession of ammunition, possession of marijuana with intent to distribute as well as to distribute within 1,000 ft of a school and possession of an unlicensed firearm within 1,000 ft of a school. Jamal Arthur was also slapped with additional charges of evading arrest and reckless endangerment.

In court on Wednesday, a judge ruled that bail be set at \$50,000 each with Jamal Lloyd having to post 10 percent of the amount to secure his release, while his son, Jamoi, would be allowed to post an unsecured bond for the full amount.

Both men are barred from leaving the St. Thomas-St. John District without the court's written permission and must surrender their identifying documents. They must both report to the Office of Probation once a week and abide by a daily curfew from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. They are prohibited from using alcohol or any controlled substance as well as possessing a firearm, ammunition or dangerous weapon. Their next scheduled court appearance is February 3rd, 2023.