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## Two Men Shot at Paul M. Pearson Gardens; One Victim Undergoes Immediate Surgery to Survive, Police Say

Travel / **Published On March 23, 2023 05:52 AM /**

Staff Consortium **March 23, 2023**

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ST. THOMAS — Two men were shot in St. Thomas during what the victims described to police as being a sudden incident while they were under a tent at the Paul M. Pearson Gardens housing community.

According to the V.I. Police Department, on Tuesday at about 10:00 p.m. Patrol Division and Criminal Investigation Bureau officers responded to the shooting. Upon arrival to the scene, the officers learned that the victims were transported to the Schneider Regional Medical Center on private transportation, prompting officers to travel to the hospital.

Once at the hospital, contact was made with both victims who stated that they were under a tent at the housing community when an individual suddenly opened fire. According to the victims, as

they attempted to evade the gunfire by running away, they were struck by bullets.

The first victim sustained a single gunshot to his lower back, the V.I.P.D. said, while the second victim was struck in his chest and abdomen and had to be operated on immediately.

"The victims had to be hospitalized for their injuries until further notice," stated the police department.

Investigators say the case remains active, with Criminal Investigation Bureau detectives probing the matter.

The V.I.P.D. is asking anyone with any information about this case to contact the Chief's Office, or Detective Brian Bedminster at 340-774-2211 ext. 5573. You may also send an anonymous tip to Crime Stoppers USVI [here](#).