

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Man Accused of Following Wife Around During J'Ouvert and Causing Scene Now Facing Assault, Domestic Violence Charges

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Mugshot of Coy Gumbs. By. THE VIRGIN ISLANDS POLICE DEPARTMENT.

ST. THOMAS — A man, Coy Gumbs, was arrested and charged with multiple offenses following his alleged violent and disruptive behavior at J'Ouvert celebrations on April 27. His wife reported that Gumbs harassed her and her friends during the festivities, leading to altercations that involved both physical assault and a breach of peace.

This incident follows a history of reports filed by Gumbs's wife against him, including a temporary restraining order that had recently been put in place.

According to the victim's account presented in court documents, she and two of her female friends were attending the J'Ouvert celebrations when she spotted her husband around 11:30 a.m. near the former First Bank on Veterans Drive. Upon making his way through the crowd, Gumbs reportedly confronted his wife, began cursing, and physically accosted her. His aggressive behavior was quelled by intervention from the woman's friend and three officials, including two Port Authority officers and a National Guard soldier.

Despite being removed from the area, Gumbs returned a few minutes later, this time reportedly seizing and bruising the hand of another of his wife's friends, according to court documents. Amidst the ensuing disturbance, he managed to get close to his wife and attempted to punch her, only managing to graze her face, the probable cause fact sheet said. His wife retaliated with a slap, after which he continued his verbal tirade until he was removed once more from the scene.

The victim reported that she had to continually evade her husband until she lost him near a local KFC outlet. Subsequently, she proceeded to the Richard Callwood Command police station to file an official report.

On May 8, the same day the victim recorded a video statement for police, her two companions also gave their accounts to the officers. Both of them corroborated the woman's version of events, revealing that Gumbs persistently refused to leave them alone. Upon realizing that the man was her friend's husband, one of the women reportedly implored him to handle their personal matters privately.

The police investigation revealed that the victim had previously filed several complaints against Gumbs and a temporary restraining order was already in effect against him.

On Tuesday afternoon, despite denying all allegations, Gumbs was arrested and charged with simple assault and battery as a crime of domestic violence, and disturbances of the peace.

During his court appearance on Wednesday, additional charges of attempted battery and aggravated assault as acts of domestic violence were added. He was granted bail for \$1,000 and ordered to stay away from his wife's residence and workplace, except for a one-time supervised visit to collect his personal belongings. His next court appearance is slated for May 26.