



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS POLICE DEPARTMENT

“To Protect and Serve”

Office of the Commissioner

VIPD NEWS RELEASE - 051223-155
For Immediate Media Distribution

May 12, 2023

CIB and SOB Execute Warrants, Arrest Man for Attempted Murder

St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands - On April 12, 2023, the 911 Emergency Call Center received reports of shots being fired in the Candido Guadalupe Housing Complex. Upon the arrival of the initial responding officers, contact was made with the victims and witnesses in this matter. Investigation disclosed that 39-year-old Mr. Juanito Ortiz Jr., fired shots at two minors and an adult in the residential area. Thereafter investigating this matter, an arrest and search warrant were obtained from the Superior Court for Mr. Juanito Ortiz Jr., and his residence.

Members of the Criminal Investigation Bureau and Special Operations Bureau executed the search and arrest warrant at Mr. Ortiz's residence. Mr. Ortiz was detained without incident. He was advised of his Miranda Rights and gave a statement admitted to firing shots in the air on the same date. He was placed under arrest for Attempted Murder in the First Degree and Reckless Endangerment in the First Degree. He was booked and unable to post bail which was set at \$300,000.00 in this matter. Mr. Ortiz was transported to the John Bell Correctional Facility pending his Advice of Rights Hearing at the Superior Court.

###

AAF Justice Complex, 5400 Veterans Drive St. Thomas, 00802 * (340) 774-2211
Administrative Services Building 45 Mars Hill, Frederiksted St. Croix, 00840 * (340) 778-2211

www.vipd.vi.gov