

THE VIRGIN ISLANDS POLICE DEPARTMENT

"To Protect and Serve"

Office of the Commissioner

VIPD NEWS RELEASE - 082223-273 For Immediate Media Distribution

VIPD Alerts Community of Recent Carjacking Incidents on St. Croix

St. Croix, U.S.V.I. - On Saturday, August 19, 2023, at about 12:39 a.m., an adult female called the 911 Emergency Call Center to report she was car jacked in the Peter's Rest area, as she and another female walked to their vehicles. As she entered her white 4-door 2015 Honda Civic SI (CGV-797), a black vehicle, unknown make or model, rushed in front her vehicle and two male suspects dressed in all black clothing exited and held her and the other female at gun point. One of the suspects demanded the keys to her vehicle which she immediately provided. He then grabbed her purse and fled the scene in her vehicle towards El Sol Restaurant and the other suspect drove towards the Sion Farm traffic light.

Another carjacking incident occurred on Sunday, August 20, 2023. At aproximately 12:55 a.m., an adult female was present at Marshall Command to report that she was car jacked in the Orange Grove area.

The victim stated, while getting into her vehicle, a 2018 gray 4 door Jeep Wrangler with a light bar on the hood, bearing license plate CHM-051, she observed a white heavily tinted Toyota Yaris with no plates, that drove next to her vehicle. When the suspect, who appeared to be a young red skinned (light complexion) male, dressed in all black came out the passenger side armed with a black and brown handgun. The suspect approached her pointing the gun at her and demanding her car keys which she provided. He then grabbed her purse and fled the area. At the same time, the white Toyota Yaris drove away behind him.

Women have been the victims of the most recent carjackings and are urged to be aware of their surroundings and to safeguard themselves. Should anyone find themselves a victim of a carjacking, get as much information on the suspect(s) and the vehicle that they appeared in, this can assist officers in the recovery of the vehicle and apprehension of the suspect(s).

Chief Detective of the Criminal Investigation Bureau, St. Croix District, Lieutenant Naomi Joseph, advise vehicle owners to remove the tinted plastic shields on license plates. "It hinders us from being able to read your plate in the event your vehicle was stolen". She also urged vehicle owners to install both license plates on their vehicles. "This goes a long way in allowing us to do what we are supposed to do".

These crimes are being investigated by the Criminal Investigation Bureau. Anyone who may have information on these crimes, or any other crimes, is encouraged to call 911 or Crime Stoppers V.I. at 1(800)222-TIPS.

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