



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, September 18, 2009

VIPD Officer Arrested on Charges of Grand Juror Tampering

St. Thomas, USVI - Veteran Virgin Islands Police Officer Carlton Charleswell has been arrested after a federal grand jury returned a two-count indictment against him Tuesday charging him with corruptly endeavoring to influence a grand juror and obstruction of justice, United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe announced today. After his arrest, Charleswell made his initial appearance before U.S. Magistrate Judge Geoffrey W. Barnard in district court. He was detained pending a detention hearing and arraignment on September 23, 2009.

The two-count indictment is the result of months of investigative work by a joint local/federal task force conducting a probe into police corruption within the Virgin Islands Police Department. The task force comprises the VIPD, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Marshals Service, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. In addition to Charleswell, the investigative work of the task force has resulted in the indictment of VIPD Officer Jerome Blyden, VIPD Captain Enrique Saldana and VIPD Sergeant George Greene, Jr. Anyone with information related to police corruption is asked to call the task force at (340) 715-6516.

The first count of the indictment charges Charleswell with corruptly endeavoring to

influence, intimidate and impede a grand juror in the discharge of the grand juror's duty by seeking out the grand juror and making inquiry of and false statements to the grand juror regarding a grand jury proceeding concerning a VIPD investigation. The second count of the indictment charges him with seeking out a fellow VIPD officer in an attempt to persuade the officer to falsify evidence relating to an investigation.

If convicted on count one, Charleswell faces a maximum of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. If convicted on count two, he faces a maximum of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

An indictment is merely a formal charging document and is not evidence of guilt. Every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.