



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Former Virgin Islands Police Officer Sentenced to 30 Months in Prison

St. Thomas, USVI - Former Virgin Islands Police Officer Carlton Charleswell was sentenced today by Visiting District Court Judge Juan R. Sanchez to 30 months in prison for making false declarations before a grand jury, United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe announced.

Charleswell pleaded guilty in June 2010 to Count One of a three-count superseding indictment charging him with corruptly endeavoring to influence, intimidate and impede a grand juror in the discharge of the grand juror's duty with respect to the investigation of a robbery at the Subway restaurant in the Nisky Center on St. Thomas.

"Testifying falsely while under oath in any court in an attempt to influence the outcome of a proceeding corrodes the public's faith in our democratic institutions and cannot go unpunished," U.S. Attorney Sharpe said. "This prosecution underscores the commitment of the US Attorney's Office to pursue those who undermine the public's trust and engage in unethical and criminal practices."

According to the plea agreement filed with the court, the Subway store at the Nisky Center on St. Thomas was robbed on May 17, 2009. When Virgin Islands Police Department detectives arrived at the scene of the robbery, they apprehended Michael Hodge, who has since

been convicted of the robbery, near the Subway restaurant. The detectives also seized a cellular telephone from the pick-up truck that Hodge was using. Further investigation revealed a connection between the cellular telephone that was found in the pick-up truck and a Subway employee inside the store at the time of the robbery.

As part of his plea, Charleswell admitted that in attempts to shield the Subway employee who was a suspect in the robbery case, he falsely testified under oath before the grand jury that a VIPD officer involved in the robbery investigation told him that the cellular telephone was not found in the pick-up truck, but somewhere else.

The case was investigated by the Public Corruption Task Force, which comprises the Virgin Islands Police Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Marshals Service, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division and U.S. Postal Inspection Service. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Kim R. Lindquist and Nolan D. Paige.

U.S. Attorney Sharpe urges anyone who has information related to public corruption to contact the Public Corruption Task Force at (340) 715-6516.