



**THE VIRGIN ISLANDS POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
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**Office of the Commissioner**

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January 23, 2023

**Man Faces Assault Charges After He Strangled and Body Slammed His Fiancé Multiple Times at Hotel**

**St. Thomas, USVI** - On Saturday, January 21, 2023, at approximately 4:15 p.m., detectives were notified of an assault at the Elysians Hotel. Upon arrival to further investigate the matter, contact was made with an adult female who reported that on Thursday, January 19, 2023, she was punched and kicked multiple times by her fiancé, Mr. John Michael Purcell. She further stated that on Saturday, January 21, 2023, she told Mr. Purcell to leave her hotel room, however, due to her request he then strangled her multiple times following each strangulation with a body slam. Investigation revealed that the victim sustained multiple bruises about the body, a small laceration to her nose bridge and had difficulty swallowing. The victim refused medical attention.

Mr. John Michael Purcell, 34-years-old, was arrested on January 21, 2023 and is facing assault second charges. There was no bail set in this case. Mr. Purcell was turned over to the Bureau of Corrections pending his Advise of Rights hearing.

Any persons having information regarding this incident are asked to contact 911, the Criminal Investigation Bureau at (340)774-2211 ext. 5576/5572, Crime Stoppers V.I. at 1(800)222-TIPS, the Chief's Office at (340)715-5548 or the Commissioner's Office at (340)715-5506.

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**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**

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