

FILED

April 26, 2026 07:30 PM

ST-2026-CR-00104

TAMARA CHARLES
CLERK OF THE COURT

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
DIVISION OF ST. THOMAS AND ST. JOHN

PEOPLE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	ADVICE OF RIGHTS COMPLAINT
vs.	)	CASE NO. 26TP05107
	)	
	)	
	)	
OWEN, Benjamin J.	)	
	)	
Defendant,	)	
_____	)	ARREST # 26TA-0141

PROBABLE CAUSE FACT SHEET

Based on my observation and those of others personally communicated to me, I, Det. Shaharazad Donastorg, being duly sworn by saying that the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief:

On April 25, 2026, officers were dispatched to the island of Little Saint James, located in or near Christmas Cove, in reference to a report of trespassing. Upon arrival, officers made contact with residents of the island, Ms. Emery Poleon and Ms. Ann Rodriquez, who advised us that a male individual had been detained on the island after being found trespassing on private property. The detained individual was later identified as the Defendant, **Benjamin Jackson Owen**.

Contact was made later with Ms. Emery Poleon at the Criminal Investigations Bureau, where she provided a statement. Ms. Poleon stated that on the date of the incident, she and her mother received a telephone call from one of the island's maintenance workers, who reported observing unknown individuals on the property. Ms. Poleon stated that she and her mother attempted to make contact with the individuals and once they found them, they advised them that they were trespassing

on private property and instructed them not to move. Ms. Poleon stated that the individuals then fled the area on foot.

Ms. Poleon further stated that during this time, they were able to take several photographs of the suspects as they were running off the island. She reported that, in the course of attempting to document the incident, one of the males pushed her, causing her to fall onto her side. Ms. Poleon advised that she is approximately five (5) months pregnant and began experiencing pain as a result of the fall.

Ms. Poleon stated that her mother, Ms. Ann Rodriquez, then attempted to pursue the fleeing individuals, who entered the water, climbed aboard a vessel, and departed the area. Ms. Rodriquez followed behind the vessel in an attempt to apprehend or identify the individuals.

Ms. Poleon further stated that she was subsequently notified that one of the trespassers had been detained on the island by the maintenance workers. She stated that the detained trespasser, **Benjamin Jackson Owen**, was taken to a holding area and detained there until police arrival. Ms. Poleon then notified her mother of **Owen**'s presence on the island.

A statement was also obtained from Ms. Ann Rodriquez, who corroborated the aforementioned sequence of events. Ms. Rodriquez further added that while following the vessel occupied by the trespassers, she pursued them to the island of St. John. Upon catching up to the vessel, she requested that the rental company associated with the boat prevent the individuals from leaving; however, her request was ignored, and the individuals continued on their way.

Ms. Rodriquez stated that she then traveled to the main police station to file a report regarding the incident, referenced as CR#26JP00495. While at the station, she received a call from her daughter advising that one of the trespassers had been detained on Little Saint James.

Upon arrival on Little Saint James, VIPD officers made contact with all involved parties and were transported to the location where **Benjamin Jackson Owen** was being held pending police

arrival. All parties were subsequently transported to the Criminal Investigations Bureau for further investigation.

Benjamin Jackson Owen consented to a video-recorded interview and provided a statement. **Owen** stated that on the date of the incident, he and several individuals—some known to him and others unknown—traveled to Little Saint James with the intent of taking photographs for his nonprofit organization.

Owen stated that while on the island, he was confronted after being observed taking photographs. He stated that he made contact with Ms. Poleon and Ms. Rodriquez after they pursued him in an attempt to detain him. **Owen** further stated that he became winded during the pursuit and sat down, at which point he was “taken.” **Owen** stated that several males on the island apprehended him, lifted him, restrained him by tying him up, and placed him in a holding area until law enforcement arrived.

As a result of the events that transpired outside of police presence, Ms. Emery Poleon indicated her desire to effect a **citizen’s arrest** of **Benjamin Jackson Owen** for trespassing on the island of Little Saint James.

Benjamin Jackson Owen was advised of his constitutional rights, booked, and processed. He was later able to post bail pending his Advice of Rights hearing.

Based upon the foregoing, I believe that the above-named defendant **BENJAMIN JACKSON OWEN** should be charged for the following violations:

a) *14 V.I.C. § 1741* *Trespassing*

Det. S. Donastorg #1288

Detective S. Donastorg #1288
Criminal Investigations Bureau

SUBSCRIBED TO and sworn before me this 26 day of April 2026.

/s/ Brenda Scales

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

SEE ATTACHED NCIC AND RAP SHEET