



**CITY OF FALL RIVER MASSACHUSETTS
POLICE DEPARTMENT**



Albert F. Dupere
Chief of Police

Lt. Gil Costa
Sgt. J.T. Hoar
Detective J. Robinson

PRESS RELEASE

Date: Monday, November 18th, 2019

Subject: Firearm seizure and arrest

On November 17th, 2019 at 2:15 p.m. Uniformed Officers Frederick M. Mello and Jose DePedra of the Fall River Police Department responded to 320 Ferry Street regarding a report of a male hiding a rifle on the property. Upon the officers' arrival, they located a Marlin .22 rifle which was wrapped in a blanket under a trailer just as the caller had described. As Officers were canvassing the area, taking witness statements, the vehicle returned to the area occupied by three people. The suspect, who admitted placing the item under the trailer was removed from the rear seat and detained. The witnesses made a positive identification of the suspect who is identified as 33-year-old Viriato E. Cruz of 159 Wamsutta Street Fall River.

Viriato is charged with Possession of a firearm without LTC in Public, Possession of a Firearm with a Defaced Serial Number, and Improper Storage of a Firearm.

A graphic for the Fall River Police Department. At the top, it says "FALL RIVER POLICE DEPARTMENT" in white text on a blue background. To the right is a small version of the police patch. Below the title is a mugshot of Viriato E. Cruz, a young man with dark, curly hair, wearing a black shirt. To the right of the mugshot is his personal information and charges. At the bottom of the graphic is a photograph of a Marlin .22 rifle lying on a wooden surface.

**FALL RIVER POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

Viriato E. Cruz
159 Wamsutta Street
Fall River, MA
Age 33
Hgt - 5'10" Wgt - 180
Eyes - Brown Hair - Black
Charges:
Possession of Non-large
capacity Firearm w/o LTC
Possession of a Firearm with
Deface Serial Number
Improper Storage of a Firearm

*****END OF RELEASE*****

Detective John Robinson Press Information Officer Fall River Police Department Office of Professional Standards