



**THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802  
340-774-0001**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 495-2019**

**GOVERNOR OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES**

**WHEREAS**, the Government of the Virgin Islands recognizes the importance of maintaining sound, practical, consistent, and comprehensive financial management; and

**WHEREAS**, comprehensive fiscal management standards of operating procedures are of profound importance to the people of the Virgin Islands; and

**WHEREAS**, the Virgin Islands Department of Finance implemented TeleCheck Check Verification Services in July 2010 to help mitigate the influx of Non-Sufficient Funds (NSF) checks to the Government; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Finance established "Statement of Policies and Procedures (SOPP #122 – Dishonored Checks)" in June of 2012 to promote best practices and to provide step by step guidance; and

**WHEREAS**, SOPP #122 is intended to provide the necessary guidance to foster improved accounting and collection of NSF checks; and

**WHEREAS**, there has been an increase of NSF check activity since SOPP #122 was established; and

**WHEREAS**, certain agencies have unilaterally decided not to use check verification services available; and

**WHEREAS**, NSF checks represent monies that should be in the government coffers; and

**WHEREAS**, in Fiscal Year 2018, the total amount of dishonored checks was \$4.4 Million, and in Fiscal Year 2019, the total amount of dishonored checks thus far is \$3 Million; and

**WHEREAS**, to ensure that the government collects its monies, the Department of Finance must enforce the implementation of check verification services to be used at every department/agency that collects monies on behalf of the Government of the Virgin Islands; and

**WHEREAS**, the Virgin Islands Department of Finance is the executive agency that has the rights, powers, duties, and responsibilities of exercising wide-ranging control over the enforcement of the laws relating to finance for the Government of the Virgin Islands, pursuant to Title 3, Virgin Islands Code, Section 171 et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, substantial benefits can be achieved by utilizing check verification services government-wide to achieve the collection of outstanding monies owed to the Government of the Virgin Islands.

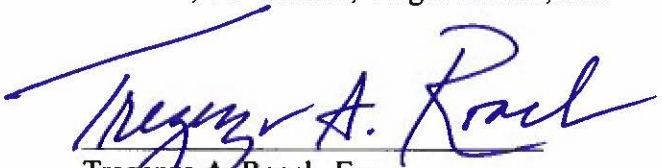
**NOW, THEREFORE**, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 11 of the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, it is hereby **ORDERED**

1. The Department of Finance will invoke its authority, as it deems necessary, to order any agency within the Government of the Virgin Islands to utilize check verification services.
2. The Department of Finance will be the only agency procuring check verification services on behalf of the Government of the Virgin Islands.
3. No other agency has the right to choose a vendor for check verification services.
4. Procurement of check verification services will be consolidated in the Department of Finance and no other agencies shall be authorized or enabled to procure said services.
5. If the Department of Finance deems it necessary for an agency to utilize check verification services, no agency can refuse to use such systems without the written consent of the Commissioner of Finance or the Governor of the Virgin Islands.
6. If an agency is mandated by this executive order to utilize check verification services selected by the Department of Finance and receives NSF checks that were not inputted into the check verification system but were eligible to be evaluated by the check verification system, the value of these checks can be deducted from future agency releases or allotments.


The mandates of this Executive Order shall be effective immediately.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this day of 29<sup>th</sup> October, A.D., 2019.



  
Tregenza A. Roach, Esq  
Acting Governor

ATTEST:

  
Novelle E. Francis, Jr.  
Acting Lieutenant Governor