



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

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 496 – 2019

TO MEET THE CURRENT PUBLIC SAFETY NEEDS OF THE CITIZENS OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS AND PREPARE FOR THE MASS GATHERING EVENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH ENHANCED SECURITY BY USING VIRGIN ISLANDS PEACE OFFICERS FROM WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES, AND AUTHORITIES TO SUPPORT THE VIRGIN ISLANDS POLICE FORCE.

WHEREAS, the Virgin Islands Police Department, the primary law enforcement authority in the Territory, currently needs additional officers to effectively fulfill its mandates of protection of life and property, crime prevention, and the preservation of peace and tranquillity over the Holiday Season; and

WHEREAS, in recent years the Virgin Islands community has experienced an elevated level of violent crime; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Virgin Islanders will be returning as well as visitors coming to the Territory for the holiday season; and

WHEREAS, families and children will be attending public events, including but not limited to tree-lightings, pageants, calypso shows, tramps, villages, jump-up events, Christmas caroling, parades, and other cultural activities celebrating the season; and

WHEREAS, the Virgin Islands Police Department will require assistance to meet the needs of the anticipated increase in population on public roads and in event areas unless shortcomings in staffing are addressed immediately; and

WHEREAS, within the departments and agencies of the Virgin Islands Government there are peace officers as defined under title 5, section 3561 of the Virgin Islands Code authorized to enforce the laws of the Virgin Islands and execute warrants of arrest; and

WHEREAS, as set forth in title 23, section 3 (f) of the Virgin Islands Code, whenever the Police Commissioner determines that the police force requires assistance in specific areas of police work, the Governor, on the recommendation of the Police Commissioner may temporarily reassign peace officers

employed within the executive branch to perform police work in any area designated by the Police Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, action is required to protect the health and general welfare of the Virgin Islands residents and visitors.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor by Section 11 of the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands of 1954, as amended, and by Section 3 of Title 23 of the Virgin Islands Code, I order the following:

SECTION 1: Re-assignment of not less than fifty (50) percent of the peace officers of the following entities of the executive branch to the Virgin Islands Police Department to perform public safety functions as necessary and determined by the Police Commissioner:

- a. Department of Planning and Natural Resources
- b. Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs
- c. Office of the Governor
- d. Office of Attorney General
- e. Taxicab Commission
- f. Virgin Islands Lottery
- g. Virgin Islands Port Authority
- h. Waste Management Authority

Such officers shall report to the Police Commissioner or his designated representative on each island for assignment of police work in any area designated by the Police Commissioner.

SECTION 2: The costs incurred by a peace officer in performing mission assignments through the Virgin Islands Police Department shall be borne by the respective entity that employs such peace officer.

This Executive Order shall be effective as of 12:00 a.m. December 15, 2019, and shall terminate without further order January 7, 2020, 12:00 a.m., unless sooner amended or rescinded by further executive order.

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 12th day of December A.D., 2019.

ATTEST:




Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor


Tregenza A. Roach
Lieutenant Governor