



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

**EXECUTIVE ORDER AND PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR
OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
SUSPENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS CODE
DURING THE STATE OF HEALTH EMERGENCY IN THE
UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
DUE TO COVID-19 – CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

WHEREAS, Title 23, Section 1005(a), Virgin Islands Code, vests in the Governor the responsibility for meeting the dangers to the Territory of the United States Virgin Islands and its people presented by emergencies or major disasters and the authority to declare a State of Emergency when it is determined that an emergency or major disaster has occurred or is imminent; and

WHEREAS, the Revised Organic Act of 1954 (as amended) Section 11 confers upon the Governor all executive powers, more particularly general supervision and control of all departments, bureaus, agencies, and other instrumentalities of the executive branch; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, in order to protect the lives and property of the residents of the Territory may activate all necessary and possible territorial resources under the executive branch, other agencies, instrumentalities, and partners to complete the preparation necessary to protect life and property;

WHEREAS, an emergency and major disaster was imminent as a result of the outbreak and rapid spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission and presents itself with symptoms similar to those of influenza, the Governor of the United States Virgin Islands declared a State of Emergency on March 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, individuals in the Territory of the Virgin Islands have been pre-emptively isolated and tested with three individuals testing positive for COVID-19, and the CDC currently recommends mitigation measures in communities with potential COVID-19 cases, including staying at home when sick, keeping away from others who are sick and staying at home when a

household member is sick with respiratory disease symptoms or if instructed to do so by public health officials or a health care provider; and

WHEREAS, the CDC currently recommends community preparedness and everyday prevention measures be taken by all individuals and families in the United States, including voluntary home isolation when individuals are sick with respiratory symptoms to increase community resilience and readiness for responding to an outbreak; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate to take expedited action to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled and that residents and visitors in the U.S. Virgin Islands remain safe and secure; and

WHEREAS, action taken by the Government of the Virgin Islands in preparedness and response to the COVID-19 has hampered the ability of the government and private sector from normally conducting business; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to impose guidelines and restrictions to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Territory from the potentially dangerous effects of the COVID-19 – Coronavirus Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to facilitate expedited actions by all agencies of the Government in responding to the effects of this emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Albert Bryan, Jr., Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, by virtue of the authority granted to me by Section 11 of the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, and afore-cited sections of the Virgin Islands Code, do hereby PROCLAIM & ORDER as follows:

1. The provisions of Title 31, Chapter 23, Section 236 of the Virgin Islands Code, establishing the procedures for formal advertising of competitive bids and the attendant rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, are hereby suspended during the Declared State of Health Emergency for purchases of goods and services related to COVID-19 – Coronavirus preparedness and response; and
2. The provisions of Title 3, Chapter 25, Subchapter IV, Section 530(b) of the Virgin Islands Code, requiring the Public Employees Relations Board (PERB) to meet within thirty (30) days after a filing of appeal by a government employee and to conduct a hearing no later than sixty (60) days from the date of the appeal filing date, and all the Orders of the PERB issued under Sections 530 and 531 of Title 3 of the Virgin Islands Code are hereby suspended during the declared State of Health Emergency; and
3. All motor vehicle registration and license, business license, and other permit renewal deadlines are hereby extended for an additional 60 days from March 19, 2020; and

4. The effective date of this Proclamation Order shall be March 13, 2020.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands to be affixed at Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, this 20 day of March, A.D., 2020.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Albert Bryan, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Albert Bryan, Jr.
Governor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tregenza A. Roach", written over a horizontal line.

Tregenza A. Roach
Lt. Governor