

1 **BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON**
2 **CULTURE, HISTORIC PRESERVATION, YOUTH and**
3 **RECREATION**

4 **31TH LEGISLATURE OF THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS**

5 **March 8, 2016**

6 **THE VIRGIN ISLANDS POLICE DEPARTMENT**

7 **TESTIMONY**

8
9 Good morning Chairman Myron Jackson, members of the Committee on
10 Culture, Historic Preservation, Youth and Recreation, members of the
11 31th Legislature in attendance, and the Virgin Islands Community as a
12 whole. I am Eugene Alcendor, Deputy Police Chief for St.
13 Thomas/Water Island, and with me are Lieutenant Rosalyn Jarvis,
14 VIPD's Carnival Coordinator/Liaison, Assistant Coordinator Sgt. Duane
15 Donovan and Sgt. Lionel Bess, Traffic Commander.

16 We are here before this distinguished body of representatives to give
17 testimony in regards to Carnival 2016 appropriately themed "**Nothing is**
18 **more Fabulous than carnival in St. Thomas**". The Virgin Islands
19 Police Department is very cognizant of the significance of carnival both
20 from a cultural as well as an economic standpoint and equally important

1 is the safety of our residents and visitors engaging in this cultural affair.
2 Hence, the Virgin Islands Police Department, as in the past continues to
3 work fervently in an effort to identify and implement strategic ways of
4 reducing the probability for incidence of criminal activities, through
5 proactive approaches, lessons learned and community involvement.

6 Inclusive of our preparation for this year's carnival is the identification
7 of carnival Coordinator and Assistant Coordinators. Their
8 responsibilities include attending all Carnival Committee meetings and
9 events and liaison between the Virgin Islands Police Department and the
10 Carnival Committee. Additionally, the Carnival Coordinator is required
11 to prepare and submit to the Office of the Chief for review and approval,
12 an operational plan represented as the "Carnival Schedule" for all
13 Carnival 2016 events. This plan ensures police personnel are assigned
14 to work at each carnival event and also provides specific instructions to
15 all Officers assigned. Subsequent to its approval by the Office of the
16 Chief, the Carnival Schedule is then disseminated to all Commanders to
17 adjust their schedules to ensure that there is island wide police coverage
18 during each event and the various Police Zones.

19

20 The Virgin Islands Police Department will address Carnival 2016 in the
21 following categories: **Traffic, Vendors, Public Safety and Public**
22 **Awareness.**

23

1 **TRAFFIC**

2 The St. Thomas/St. John District has many traffic issues which escalate
3 during the days and nights that Carnival Events are scheduled. Sgt.
4 Lionel Bess, Commander of the Traffic Bureau will provide insight on
5 vehicle safety to include inspection of tractor trailers, road closures (seen
6 and unforeseen), alternate routes in cases of emergency, parking
7 (permitted and not permitted) fees, and requirements for towing
8 vehicles. Although we will be discussing traffic initiatives, we also
9 encourage the use of public transportation and carpooling as a way of
10 elevating traffic congestion.

11

12 **VENDORS**

13 The St. Thomas/St. John District usually has many individuals during
14 Carnival who are interested in becoming a vendor. In terms of
15 procedure, each vendor will identify and request a location to conduct
16 their business. Upon availability of the specified location, the Virgin
17 Islands Police Department (Office of the Chief of Police) will assign the
18 vendor permit for that specified location. Any vendor acquiring a permit
19 to sell goods that are **not for human consumption**, are to report to the
20 Records Bureau at Callwood Command (across from the Fort Christian
21 parking lot) and pay the required \$75.00 fee per event. The receipt will
22 then be brought upstairs to the Office of the Chief of Police where a
23 permit for the Carnival Event will be issued. All vendors, to include

1 persons who may be assisting the primary vendor, who are interested in
2 selling goods **for human consumption**, must obtain a placement permit
3 from the (Office of the Chief of Police) and take that placement permit
4 to Department of Health, so that a health permit can be obtained. A copy
5 of the health permit and the health card (including the receipt of events
6 requested) for the person or persons who will be selling must be returned
7 to the Office of the Chief of Police prior to obtaining the official permit
8 for their requested event. Also, obtain health cards from the Department
9 of Health (prior to applying for a permit). Any further information
10 regarding vendor permits could be obtained by contacting the Office of
11 the Chief at 715-5548 between the hours of 8am-5pm.

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13 **PUBLIC SAFETY**

14 The St. Thomas/St. John District will be inundated with family
15 members, friends, and guests to our island. As mentioned before, as part
16 of our effort to ensure a safe carnival, the Carnival Coordinator is
17 required to prepare an operational plan for all carnival events. There will
18 be Supervisors and Officers assigned to all events from the beginning
19 until everyone leaves the respective area(s). Our primary mission is to
20 provide safety, security, crowd control and public assistance for every
21 citizen and visitor during this most festive occasion. We encourage the
22 community to be especially vigilant and to notify the Police of any
23 criminal activities observed, as this will further enable us to ensure the

1 safety of everyone during this festive occasion. Additionally, certain
2 carnival events, such as J’ouvert and horse race for example, attract
3 large crowds, which usually increase the likelihood for criminal
4 behavior. We will utilize other Peace Officers as a force multiplier to
5 increase Police presence for these events in addition to other strategic
6 efforts.

7

8 **PUBLIC AWARENESS**

9 St. Thomas Carnival 2016 will cater to all generations who live on our
10 island and guest who visit. We believe that the common element
11 between all of us is communication and education. We will implement
12 an annual public awareness endeavor to educate the public through the
13 media. This Public Awareness Program will address the following
14 categories: Personal Safety, Home Safety, Business Safety, Child Safety,
15 Vehicle Safety and Traffic. All of the local radio stations, Facebook and
16 the VIPD’s web page will be utilized to inform the public. The media is
17 chosen by the demographics of the population that they influence to
18 capture all generations. Any information received from the community
19 has been and will continue to be highly valued. The Virgin Islands
20 Police Department looks forward to another successful and enjoyable
21 Carnival season.

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1 I thank you Chairman Jackson and the members of the Virgin Islands
2 31th Legislature for your continued support of the Virgin Islands Police
3 Department. To the residents of the Virgin Islands, thank you for your
4 support and assistance. Please know we will continue to do everything in
5 our power to serve and protect you.

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7 Thank you for this opportunity and we are available to answer any
8 pertinent questions at the appropriate time.