

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, VETERANS
AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

BILL NO. 35-0242

Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

March 18, 2024

A Resolution honoring and commending Miguel Santos, Jr., aka “DJ Poppy Pops” for his contributions in the field of music and in radio broadcasting of musical events and local social musical events and specifically contributing to the art of deejaying and the teaching of deejaying

PROPOSED BY: Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr..

1 **WHEREAS**, Miguel Angel Santos Jr., better known as “Poppy Pops” was born July 25,
2 1967, on the beautiful island of St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands, to Miguel Angel Santos
3 Sr., (“Red Head”) and the late Annie Virginia Santos;

4 **WHEREAS**, Miguel developed the love of playing baseball from a noticeably, early age
5 and followed in his dad’s footsteps, who played for the Los Angeles Dodgers of the major league
6 baseball association;

7 **WHEREAS**, Miguel discovered his love for music while attending the St. Patrick’s
8 Middle School where he graduated in 1981;

9 **WHEREAS**, Miguel’s first radio test came while in the 8th grade, interning at radio
10 station WRRR 1290, “The Reef”;

11 **WHEREAS**, Miguel learned the craft of disc jockeying during the late 70’s & early 80’s
12 from his cousin Alan Brady in Estate Mon Bijou;

1 **WHEREAS**, Miguel became so good at the craft, that while attending the St. Joseph
2 High School, he developed a remarkably close friendship with Eugene Rodriguez and together
3 they would collaborate to DJ at various school activities until the 11th grade;

4 **WHEREAS**, during his senior year at Central High School, Miguel competed in a
5 “Break Dancing” competition at Island Center and that became his starting point to his mobile-
6 DJ venture;

7 **WHEREAS**, until his high school graduation in 1985, Miguel would perform at various
8 high school activities and house parties all over St. Croix;

9 **WHEREAS**, Miguel went on to play baseball at Houston-Tillotson University, Austin,
10 Texas, where he displayed his skills while playing in all the infield positions;

11 **WHEREAS**, while there, he was a DJ at a club named “The Latin Lounge” and soon
12 after was invited to performed at the Roxy’s, one of the top clubs in Austin and Houston, Texas;

13 **WHEREAS**, on his return to St. Croix in 1987, his reputation caught the attention of
14 security personnel, Mr. Lucian Lake, of the Hondo’s Night Club in Christiansted, and he was
15 invited to a one-hour performance that lasted for more than three hours;

16 **WHEREAS**, at the acceptance of Mr. Lake’s proposal, Miguel began DJing at Hondo’s
17 Night Club on weekends, which continued for the next 20 years;

18 **WHEREAS**, in 1989, Miguel started his professional radio-personality career with an
19 offer from station owner Jonathan Cohen at WJKC Isle 95 to host the popular show “Reggae
20 Jam Session”;

21 **WHEREAS**, Miguel was, at that time, known as “DJ Daddy Pops,” however having his
22 brand similar to an already existing DJ, he changed to “DJ Poppy Pops”, which also influenced
23 his Latin culture and flavor;

24 **WHEREAS**, his popular “Who You Want To Big Up”? was a huge hit with his call-in
25 audience and this success propelled him to become exceedingly popular throughout the

1 Caribbean region and the United States of America and allowed him to perform on weekends
2 at Club Insomnia and WVJZ 105 Jamz on St. Thomas and SISTEMA 102 in Puerto Rico;

3 **WHEREAS**, in 1996, Miguel became a licensed promoter and was able to introduce
4 popular musical artists to the St. Croix community such as “The Fugees” and “Buster Rhymes”,
5 along with a host of other popular artists and bands;

6 **WHEREAS**, on December 1, 2003, Miguel moved to St. Thomas and partnered with St.
7 Thomas businessperson Mr. Craig Wade and legendary club Disc-Jockey from St. Thomas,
8 Mr. Delvin Duggins, Sr., and launched an old school radio show on 105.3 Jamz called,
9 “Remember the Times Show”;

10 **WHEREAS**, the show was an immediate success with the listeners of the Virgin Islands,
11 so, in January ‘04, Poppy Pops & DJ Delvin, now known as “RTT International”, took the
12 show on the road and began hosting popular old school events throughout the territory and
13 neighboring islands;

14 **WHEREAS**, in 2006, Miguel was homesick and moved back to St. Croix;

15 **WHEREAS**, due to the immense growth of the industry and in collaboration with other
16 DJs, once back on St. Croix, he formed a DJ organization called “The Kamp”, consisting of
17 Michael “DJ Chubby” Herbert, Hector “DJ Hecky Heck” Acosta, Sammy “DJ Sammy” Acosta,
18 DJ Pura Mezcla, Michael “DJ Michael” Perez and the late Lexter “DJ Porta” Porta (may he
19 continue to rest in peace);

20 **WHEREAS**, the Kamp became one of the most popular and high in demand groups and
21 brought their high flavor party atmosphere wherever they go;

22 **WHEREAS**, in May 2011, Memorial Day weekend, Miguel was hired to perform in
23 New York, Miami, Orlando, Atlanta, and St. Croix;

24 **WHEREAS**, while performing at Club Lyme on St. Croix, he became ill, and later
25 learned that he had suffered a stroke and was airlifted to the Jackson Memorial Hospital in
26 Florida, where he spent the next five months before returning home to St. Croix;

1 **WHEREAS**, after from 2011 to 2022, Miguel was rehabilitating, and after his
2 rehabilitation, Miguel opened the first disc jockey school in the region, a non-profit program
3 for children and adults named the DJ Pops DJ Academy;

4 **WHEREAS**, today, five of the graduates are active disc jockeys in the community;

5 **WHEREAS**, On December 28, 2022, DJ Poppy Pops, along with a host of friends and
6 family, hosted a “Remember The Times Reunion” event at Fort Frederik, Frederiksted, St.
7 Croix; it was a momentous occasion and extremely successful and a testament of the
8 community’s support and love for Miguel Angel Santos, Jr., a/k/a DJ Poppy Pops;

9 **WHEREAS**, in January 2023, his journey became full circle when he was hired as a
10 radio personality on WJKC Isle 95 to host the reggae jam session;

11 **WHEREAS**, Miguel Angel Santos, Jr., a/k/a “DJ Poppy Pops” a man of faith, has
12 become an inspiration to young people throughout the territory and abroad;

13 **WHEREAS**, he is available and willing to give back to his community by teaching his
14 craft to all who are interested in pursuing a career in the disc-jockey/radio personality and
15 production field;

16 **WHEREAS**, Miguel is married to Maricela Santos and is the proud father of Omari,
17 Lianna, Tichelle, and Dante Santos and the proud grandfather to Jai Sheen;

18 **WHEREAS**, Miguel Santos Jr., professionally known as DJ Poppy Pops, has made
19 exemplary contributions to the music and radio broadcasting industries, enriching the Virgin
20 Islands' cultural landscape; and

21 **WHEREAS**, DJ Poppy Pops has distinguished himself not only as a masterful disc
22 jockey, captivating audiences with his talent and passion for music but also as a pioneering
23 educator in the art of deejaying, fostering the next generation of talent through the first disc
24 jockey school in the Virgin Islands;

1 **WHEREAS**, his innovative approach to broadcasting and organizing musical and social
2 events has significantly enhanced the local music scene, providing a platform for artists and
3 creating communal spaces for music appreciation;

4 **WHEREAS**, DJ Poppy Pops' dedication to the craft of deejaying and his commitment to
5 teaching others embodies the spirit of creativity, perseverance, and community engagement;

6 **WHEREAS**, DJ Poppy Pops has been instrumental in shaping the music scene across
7 the Caribbean and the United States, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the Virgin Islands
8 on an international stage;

9 **WHEREAS**, Miguel Santos Jr.'s remarkable recovery from a life-threatening stroke and
10 his return to his passion and profession exemplifies his resilience and dedication, inspiring
11 countless individuals facing their own challenges;

12 **WHEREAS**, the formation of "The Kamp" DJ organization by Miguel Santos Jr. has
13 significantly contributed to the enrichment and development of the DJ community in the Virgin
14 Islands, fostering a spirit of collaboration and innovation;

15 **WHEREAS**, DJ Poppy Pops has dedicated himself to mentoring and educating aspiring
16 DJs and radio personalities, thereby ensuring the perpetuation and evolution of the art form for
17 future generations;

18 **WHEREAS**, Miguel Santos Jr., as a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, embodies
19 the values of family and community, enriching the lives of those around him through his music,
20 mentorship, and love;

21 **WHEREAS**, DJ Poppy Pops has pioneered innovative broadcasting techniques and
22 musical events that have significantly contributed to the vibrancy and diversity of the Virgin
23 Islands' cultural and musical landscape;

24 **WHEREAS**, the "Remember The Times Reunion" event, hosted and created by DJ
25 Poppy Pops, underscored the deep mutual respect and support between Miguel Santos Jr. and

1 the Virgin Islands community, celebrating shared cultural heritage and achievements; Now,
2 Therefore,

3 ***Be it resolved by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:***

4 **SECTION 1.** The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the people of the Virgin
5 Islands, honors and commends Miguel A. Santos, Jr. for his achievements as an internationally
6 acclaimed disc jockey and for his endeavors to build a pipeline of disc jockey professionals in
7 the Virgin Islands.

8 **SECTION 2.** In recognition and appreciation of his contributions to the people of the
9 Virgin Islands, the President of the Legislature, or the President's designee, shall have a perma
10 plaque copy of this Resolution prepared and presented to Miguel A. Santos, Jr., or his designee,
11 at an appropriate ceremony.

12 **BILL SUMMARY**

13 This bill honors and comments Miguel A. Santos, Jr., DJ Poppy Pops, for his
14 contributions to the people of the Virgin Islands, as an internationally acclaimed disc jockey
15 and for his endeavors to build a pipeline of disc jockey professionals in the Virgin Islands.

16 **BR23-0237/March 3, 2023/AA/REVISED/March 6, 2024**