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September 23, 2024

Good day Senators, government officials, my fellow Virgin Islanders, and DJ Benny D.  
I am Jose “Tony” Rosario.

It is my pleasure to come before you today, on this great occasion, to recognize a son of the soil, who has selflessly given so much to his community through his charitable contributions and his tireless promotion of the Virgin Islands.

I have known Benny for decades and have always admired his focus, tenacity, and lifelong love of our home and culture. Many know Benny as International recording artist and superstar Akon's DJ and Musical Director, and as the DJ and Producer for the Virgin Islands' own international superstars, Rock City, and now their Road Manager.

However, that represents a small sliver of his accomplishments. In addition to being the DJ for other artists such as Jada Kingdom (who he also Manages) Kardinal Offishall (who he assisted in getting his record deal with Akon), Shontelle, Fatman Scoop, Demarco, Melanie Fiona, Verse Simmonds, Tabi Bonney, and more, Benny has acted in several major movies and independent films; not to mention countless music videos for a myriad of artists. His list of TV show appearances will fill several pages in a notebook. All of this was done under the banner - the VI flag.

In 2011 the then President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, made Benny an ambassador of her country. Up to this day when people in Liberia want a Mohawk haircut, they call it the "Akon's DJ". In 2019, Benny opened the MTV European Awards show in Spain by introducing Akon and show host Becky G.

These accomplishments are outstanding and worthy of praise and accolades. However, the accolades have not changed, the humble, caring, and thoughtful man that Benny is nor his commitment to his community.

Through his "The DEMUS Foundation", he comes home every year to produce several events in our community while giving back both monetarily and through other engaging activities.

I can go on and on about this gem of the Virgin Islands. Allow me to simply say, Benny, I am honored to know you and call you a friend. I am pleased that the leaders in our community are bestowing such recognition on you by issuing you the Keys to the City. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this than you.

Senators and government officials, thank you very much for highlighting this pillar of our community and for affording me the opportunity to come before you and him and share these brief words.

Sincerely,

Jose "Tony" Rosario