

# VI Police Department - Office of Highway Safety Summary for the Committee on Homeland Security, Justice & Public Safety

VIRGIN ISLANDS OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY  
DIRECTOR: DAPHNE O'NEAL



Good day Senator Gittens, members of the committee on Homeland Security, Justice & Public Safety, other Senators present, and the listening and viewing audience. I am Daphne O'Neal, Director of the Virgin Islands Office of Highway Safety.

The Office of Highway Safety (OHS), a unit within the VIPD, manages federal funds appropriated through two US Department of Transportation sub-divisions - **The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)**. NHTSA, through sections 402 and 405, funds the program areas of Planning & Administration, Impaired Driving, Occupant Protection, Traffic Records, and Police Traffic Services. FMCSA funds the commercial vehicle safety program area. When fully staffed the unit is comprised of the Director, a Compliance Officer, a Fiscal Officer, six Program Coordinators, an IT Analyst, a Traffic Records Technician, and an Administrative Assistant. The office currently has six vacant positions.

For FY2023, the OHS has awarded seventeen projects totaling \$3,131,743.00 to our subrecipients to include both public and private entities.

As our focus is primarily education and outreach, the unit has provided trainings and certifications for 33 Child Passenger Safety Technicians, 47 Drug Interdiction Assistance certifications, 13 Commercial Vehicle Inspectors, 18 VIPD staffers on Data Driven Approaches to Crime & Traffic Safety, 14 officers on the use and deployment of the Intoximeter instrument. In addition, the unit conducted a Traffic Symposium and Advanced Marijuana Impaired Driving Detection training for members of the VIPD Traffic bureaus.

During the past year, the OHS has conducted several outreach interactions with our elementary and high schools, participated in the annual Agricultural Fair, and distributed 150 child passenger safety seats throughout the territory at no cost to the public. Through print, television, and social media, OHS has utilized local musical groups, a nationally recognized athlete, and VIPD officers to produce traffic safety videos and audio messaging to remind the residential and visiting community to continuously practice traffic safety by wearing your seatbelt, not driving impaired, practice pedestrian safety, no speeding, and sharing the road safely.

The OHS maintains that Traffic Safety is our #1 Priority. Together with the other members of the VI Police Department, I am available for any questions.