



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

**VIRTUAL ST. THOMAS CARNIVAL 2020
IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

A PROCLAMATION

**TO PROVIDE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE FOR THE SUBSTITUTE VIRTUAL
CELEBRATION OF THE ST. THOMAS CARNIVAL IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States pursuant to Sections 201 and 301 of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. § 1601, *et. seq.* and consistent with Section 1135 of the Social Security Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 1320b-5), declared a national emergency that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency beginning January 20, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared the ongoing COVID-19 a pandemic of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant an emergency declaration for all states, tribes, territories, and the District of Columbia pursuant to Section 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 5121-5207 (the ‘Stafford Act’); and

WHEREAS, the undersigned issued Executive Order and Proclamation Declaring a State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 – Coronavirus Pandemic dated March 13, 2020 to coordinate the Territory’s response and protective actions to address the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) public health emergency and to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of residents and visitors in the Virgin Islands (“Declaration of a State of Emergency”) and have supplemented such Executive Order and Proclamation with additional Orders requiring certain limitations on the massing of people and closing of non-essential businesses, places, and services and imposing a Stay At Home quarantine and observing Social Distancing principles; and

WHEREAS, on March 29, 2020, due to the rising number cases of COVID-19 across the country and the projections for continued exponential growth of the number of cases, the President of the United States of America extended the voluntary national shutdown and application of the CDC Social Distancing Guidelines to April 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on April 2, 2020, the President of the United States declared that a major disaster exists in the Territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands based on COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the outbreak has infected over 3 million people and killed about 212,056 around the world, including more than 56,000 in the U.S., according to a tally compiled by Johns Hopkins University from official government figures, though the true numbers are believed to be far higher; and

WHEREAS, to date, the Virgin Islands Department of Health (“DOH”) received confirmation from the Center for Disease Control (“CDC”) that fifty-nine persons, including four deceased persons, have tested positive for COVID-19 and currently await results of tests conducted on additional individuals; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic is projected to last through most of the summer of 2020 and may re-emerge in the fall of 2020 and will require continuing diligence in combating the Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, at this time of year we traditionally celebrate Carnival as a Festival in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, but due to the circumstances of the Pandemic and the continuing serious need to protect public health, safety, and welfare this year’s celebrations will be limited to virtual celebrations organized by the Division of Festivals of the Department of Tourism with the theme: “All Eyes Still On We For 2020”; and

WHEREAS, the schedule of virtual events being aired on WTJX will include:

- April 30th 4:00pm Jou’Virtual on Zoom live with DJs
- May 1st 2:00pm 2019 Children’s Parade
- 9:00pm Village Performance with Spectrum Band Live
- May 2nd 12:00pm 2019 Adults Parade
- 9:00pm Village Performance with Shaw HP and Mic Love; and

WHEREAS, for those who mourn the loss of a live Carnival and in memory and remembrance of the cultural vitality that should have been this year, it would be beneficial to grant Administrative Leave on Friday, May 1 for non-essential government employees to enjoy these Virtual Carnival Events.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Albert Bryan Jr., Governor of the Virgin Islands of the United States, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands of 1954, as amended, do hereby authorize Commissioners and Agency Heads to grant Administrative Leave to non-essential employees, in order to encourage remembrance and enjoyment of Virtual Carnival events by all residents and visitors on Friday, May 1, 2020 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm throughout the Territory.

The leave granted above shall not apply to essential employees and employees on a regular or rotating shift. Employees on annual or sick leave immediately preceding or immediately following the time period administrative leave is granted, will not receive administrative leave. Future leave will not be substituted for employees who are considered essential and/or whose shift happens to fall on a day in which other employees are granted administrative leave.

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 ____ day of April, 2020, A.D.



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

Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor

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

Tregenza A. Roach, Esq.
Lieutenant Governor