



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

**TWENTY-NINTH SUPPLEMENTAL EXECUTIVE ORDER AND PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR
OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
MODIFYING CONDITIONS OF THE "SAFER-AT-HOME" PHASE
IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Governor issued the Executive Order and Proclamation Declaring a State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 – CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC ("Declaration of a State of Emergency"), and the Government has been coordinating the Territory's response and enforcing protective actions to address "COVID-19", a public health emergency that currently requires the Government to act and provide for the health, safety, and welfare of residents and visitors located in the Virgin Islands; 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 this major disaster declaration has not been lifted; and

WHEREAS, from March 13, 2020, through February 2021, the Governor has issued subsequent Executive Orders or Supplements with additional requirements and lifting of other restrictions of previous Executive Orders and Supplements to return to the "Stay-at-Home Phase"; and

WHEREAS, the "Safer-at-Home Phase" requires continuous guidance to be given to the public about what is restricted and permissible during this phase and while still within a "State of Emergency" due to the danger and threat of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Order Declaring a State of Emergency dated March 13, 2020, invoked the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Act, 23 V.I.C. § 1001 - 1016 and authorized the Governor to exercise the powers and duties set forth therein to direct and aid the response to, recovery from, and guidance for the mitigation as well as response to emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the Virgin Islands Department of Health ("DOH") received confirmation

that, as of September 29, 2021, as many as 6721 persons, including 71 deceased persons, tested positive for COVID-19 in the Virgin Islands, with 178 active cases, and additional testing of individuals for COVID-19 are still being made or pending; and

WHEREAS, imposing guidelines and restrictions during the Territory’s “Safer-at-Home Phase” is vital to the protection, health, safety, and welfare of residents and visitors of the Territory as well as continuing the response and mitigation process.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Albert Bryan Jr, Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, under the authority granted to me by Section 11 of the Revised Organic Act of 1954 (as amended), 23 V.I.C. § 1005, and pursuant to all the afore-cited sections of the Virgin Islands Code, as well as all previous Executive Orders issued from March 13, 2020, through September 14, 2021, as amended, supplemented, renewed, and extended, do hereby ORDER:

SECTION 1. To allow police officers, firefighters, and correction officers to remain in service until age 65, *effective immediately* and so long as the Territory remains in the State of Emergency declared on March 13, 2020, as amended, supplemented, extended, and renewed unless earlier lifted or until rescinded or superseded by another applicable Executive Order by the Governor of the U.S Virgin Islands or intervening and superseding law:

- A. Notwithstanding ACT No. 7936, the provisions of Virgin Islands Code Title 3, Chapter 25, Section 530 (g) and Chapter 27, Section 705 (c), relating to the mandatory retirement age of police officers, firefighters, and correction officers are hereby suspended and all limitations amended to age 65 during the pendency of this Executive Order.
- B. The provision of ACT No. 7936 which temporarily raises the mandatory retirement age for police officers, firefighters, and correction officers to 63 and expires on October 1, 2021, is hereby suspended and amended to allow police officers, firefighters, and correction officers to remain in service until age 65.
- C. All mandatory age limitations in relevant collective bargaining agreements are hereby suspended, consistent with the provisions of Virgin Islands Code Title 24, Chapter 14, Section 374 (b).

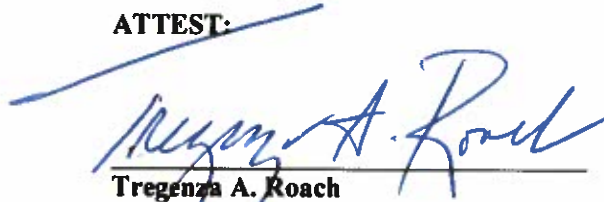
SECTION 4. All other terms, requirements, and conditions of the March 13, 2020, State of Emergency, as amended, supplemented, renewed, and extended shall continue in full force and effect unless earlier lifted, further amended, or extended by order of the Governor of the United States Virgin Islands.

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 30th day of September, A.D., 2021.




Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor

ATTEST:

Tregenza A. Roach
Lt. Governor