

THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802 340-774-0001

THIRTY-THIRD 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 December 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 "Safer-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

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WHEREAS, the Virgin Islands Department of Health ("DOH") received confirmation that, as of January 6, 2021, as many as 11,833 persons, including 89 deceased persons, tested positive for COVID-19 in the Virgin Islands, with 3308 currently 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 by the Government; and

WHEREAS, on December 27, 2021, in response to the rising numbers of COVID-19 infections in the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Governor has requested that all government offices and businesses in the community limit employee contact and allow the available work force to work remotely as much as their positions would allow; and

WHEREAS, the response to and mitigation of the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Territory and the fear associated with additional exposure in the workplace has depleted the available workforce since March 2020 and increased the volume and cost of waste collection and disposal; and

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 December 27, 2021, as amended, supplemented, renewed, and extended, do hereby ORDER:

<u>SECTION 1</u>. Effective immediately, the *Twenty-First Supplemental Executive Order* issued on January 27, 2021, as amended, is further amended in Section 2. by inserting a new subsection F to read as follows:

"F. Order No. 50/2016 of the Public Service Commission, as amended, supplemented, and extended is hereby suspended for all VIWMA contracted government services in order to allow for the continued operation of waste collection with the reduced workforce and increased costs and volume across the waste collection and disposal industry due to employee absences and supply chain failures arising from the response to, recovery from, and mitigation of the COVID-19 Pandemic."

<u>SECTION 2</u>. Section 1 of the *Thirty-Second Supplemental Executive Order* issued on December 27, 2021, is extended *until January 25, 2022*.

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SECTION 3. 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 Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 7th day of January, A.D., 2022.

Albert Bryan Jr. Governor

ATTEST:

Tregenza A. Roach