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of the United States
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DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS WARNS WARNS
BUSINESSES OF FRAUDULENT FEE COLLECTION SCHEME

(U.S. Virgin Islands) – Commissioner H. Nathalie Hodge of the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs (DLCA), is alerting all businesses and members of the public to reports of an individual or individuals falsely representing themselves as acting on behalf of the Department and attempting to collect fees from businesses.

The Department wishes to make it unequivocally clear that no employee, representative, or agent of the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs will, under any circumstances, visit a business to collect licensing fees, penalties, or any other payments on behalf of the Department.

“We want every business owner in the Virgin Islands to be aware that DLCA personnel do not collect payments in the field,” Commissioner Hodge said. “Anyone claiming to represent the Department and requesting payment at your place of business should be treated with caution and reported immediately. Protect your financial information and do not hand over money to anyone outside of DLCA’s authorized payment channels.”

All official payments due to the DLCA must be made only through the Department's established payment procedures at an official DLCA office or through other authorized payment methods approved by the Department. Department employees are not authorized to solicit or accept payments during field visits or inspections.

Businesses are urged to exercise caution and should not provide cash, checks, credit card information, or any other form of payment to anyone claiming to be collecting fees on behalf of the DLCA outside of the Department's official payment channels.

If you are approached by anyone requesting payment on behalf of the Department:

- Do not make any payment.
- Request identification, but do not engage further.
- If it can be done safely, note the individual's name, physical description, vehicle information, or any other identifying details.
- Immediately contact the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs to report the incident.
- If you believe criminal activity is occurring or you feel threatened, contact the Virgin Islands Police Department immediately.

The Department is taking these reports seriously and is working with the appropriate law enforcement authorities to investigate this matter. The DLCA remains committed to protecting consumers and the business community from fraud and encourages all businesses to remain



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vigilant. Prompt reporting of suspicious activity will assist authorities in identifying those responsible and preventing others from becoming victims.

For additional information or to report suspicious activity, please contact your nearest Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs office.

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