GOVERNMENT HOUSE
UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 24, 2021
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Governor Bryan Meets with NYPD Officials And Experts from National Network for Safe Communities

Bryan-Roach Administration committed to fighting crime with every available resource

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS – Governor Albert Bryan Jr., along with Virgin Islands Police Department Commissioner Nominee Ray Martinez, Senator Steven Payne Sr., Peace Officer Standards and Training Executive Director Gleston McIntosh, and several top-ranking VIPD officers of traveled to New York City last week to meet with several public officials and tour the New York Police Department's facilities to see the latest crime-fighting techniques and technology and discuss the strategic use of limited numbers of law enforcement officers in the Territory.

While the VIPD is currently deploying its own camera project, Governor Bryan and the team had an opportunity to visit the Real Time Crime Center (RTCC), which has access to more than 50,000 cameras in New York City that aid in crime prevention, investigative services and anti-terrorism techniques.

The NYPD camera system uses software that can track vehicles and compile information into a form useful for officers to identify and stop criminals. Officers can get real-time information on people and any prior crimes and arrests and correlate the incidents to known accomplices and companions.

“We were on a fact-finding mission to see how we can do more with technology in the law enforcement sector, particularly given our manpower shortage” Governor Bryan said. “We learned that the implementation of the RTCC reduced crime in New York City by some 50% over the course of its history.

“Locally, VIPD and the Bureau of Information Technology are overseeing a first phase installation of 104 cameras with license plate reading and facial recognition technology throughout the Territory. To date, 46 cameras have been installed and are online,” the Governor said. “VIPD, along with our federal partners, looks forward to using this technology to combat criminal activity, and we anticipate multiple phases of this project and the addition of hundreds more cameras going forward.”

Commissioner Nominee Martinez said NYPD’s operation and facilities are impressive, and he thanked the department for the discussions with him and his officers.

“I am encouraged by their demonstration that technology can assist us in doing more policing with fewer officers while providing the intel to place officers exactly where they are needed in real-time,” Commissioner Nominee Martinez said. ”With available federal funding, VIPD looks forward to incorporating updated technology into our crime-fighting strategy.”

Governor Bryan and his team also met with the National Network for Safe Communities to discuss their model for group violence reduction and intervention. This model focuses on strengthening community norms against offending; communicating directly with high-risk people to deter violence; using a minimum of law enforcement; helping group members succeed in their lives; and enhancing the legitimacy of law enforcement, especially police, to make communities safer.

Adopting this model will form the foundation of the upcoming Office of Gun Violence Prevention (OGVP) as well as the Governor’s Advisory Council on Community Violence Intervention.

The Office of the Governor along with the Department of Personnel (DOP) are actively recruiting for OGVP’s Director. The application period closes on September 1, 2021, and interested candidates can apply through DOP’s website at www.dopusvi.org.

The Bryan-Roach Administration is committed to transparency, stabilizing the economy, restoring trust in the government and ensuring that recovery projects are completed as quickly as possible. Visit transparency.vi.gov.

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