Government of the Virgin Islands
of the United States
Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2023
MEDIA CONTACT PERSON: OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER 340.725-5129

DLCA URGES PERSONS AND ESTABLISHMENTS TO OBTAIN A BUSINESS LICENSE

(*U.S. Virgin Islands*) - The Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs (DLCA) urges all individuals and/or entities that are operating a business in the Virgin Islands without a valid business license to come into compliance with the Virgin Islands Law.

The law requires all establishments and/or individuals conducting business in the Virgin Islands to apply for and obtain a business license from the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs. This includes persons who sell gift baskets, goods, and/or services on social media or the roadside for Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, or any other special occasion.

DLCA has conducted town halls and virtual forums as well as issued press releases and verbal warnings in an effort to "educate before regulate" potential business owners on the requirements to obtain a business license. DLCA has begun to issue citations to individuals and establishments who willfully fail or refuse to comply with the provisions of the DLCA statute. An unlicensed business may receive a citation not to exceed $500 and imprisonment not to exceed 30 days or both. "DLCA wants to issue a business license to everyone who is operating a business. Compliance is easier than enforcement and cheaper for the individual," stated Commissioner Evangelista.

Establishments/persons engaged in a business without a business license are urged to immediately visit the department's website at www.dlca.vi.gov to apply for a business license. You may also contact us by using our main telephone lines at 340-713-3522 on St. Croix; 340-714-3522 on St. Thomas, and 340-474-2800 on St. John.