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

Golden Rock Shopping Center
3000 Estate Golden Rock, Suite 9
St. Croix, VI 00820-4311
Telephone: 340.713.3522
Facsimile: 340.718.6982

Administrative Complex
"The Battery"
St. John, VI 00830
Telephone: 340.693.8036
Facsimile: 340.776.6989

Property & Procurement Building
8201 Sub Base, Suite 1
St. Thomas, VI 00802-5826
Telephone: 340.714-3522
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2021
MEDIA CONTACT PERSON: OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER 340.725.5129

DLCA EDUCATES BEFORE IT REGULATES AT LEAST TWO FORMS OF PAYMENT IS LAW

(U.S. Virgin Islands) - Effective April 3, 2020, Act 8205 a/k/a Bill No. 33-0098 gave the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs (DLCA) the responsibility to regulate business practices relative to forms of payment required by businesses to accept. Governor Albert Bryan, Jr. in collaboration with Senator Kurt Vialet and members of the 33rd Legislature of the Virgin Islands passed the legislation to ban cash only businesses. Many persons only utilize credit cards or debit cards to pay for services and/or items so it is very inconvenient for customers who are unable to transact business with certain establishments that only accept cash payments. The legislation is not applicable to itinerant vendors, farmers certified by the Department of Agriculture, fishermen certified by the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs and commercial establishments with an annual volume of business of less than $50,000 per year.

When Act 8205 was signed into law in 2019, the existence of the Coronavirus a/k/a COVID-19 was not contemplated and neither was the uncertainty of whether the virus was spread via the handling of cash, either paper or coin on the date the law was to take effect. Fast forward twenty-one (21) months to November 2021 and we are more aware of what we must do to protect ourselves as much as possible from COVID-19. As such, on or about January 1, 2022, DLCA shall commence to enforce the requirement for establishments to accept at least two forms of payment: Cash and either Credit Card or Debit Card.

Failure to adhere to accept at least two forms of payment may result with a fine of not less than $1,000 for a first offense, and not less than $3,000 but not more than $5,000 for subsequent offenses.

The Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs appreciates the public's cooperation. For consumer related issues you may email us at consumerawareness@dlca.vi.gov or call our hotlines on St. Croix 340.727.SCAM(7226) or St.Thomas/St. John at 340.771.SCAM(7226). You may file a consumer complaint at www.dlca.vi.gov.

"The Bryan-Roach Administration is investing in the Territory's people, infrastructure and future through transparency, stabilizing the economy, restoring trust in the government, and ensuring that recovery projects are completed as quickly as possible. Visit transparency.vi.gov