THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001

IN OBSERVANCE OF AND GRANTING ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE FOR JUNETEENTH NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY

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BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, On June 17, 2021, President Biden signed into law Bill No. S. 475, the "Juneteenth National Independence Day Act," which designated Juneteenth National Independence Day as a legal public holiday to enshrine June 19th as the national day to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the people and residents of the United States Virgin Islands stand in solidarity with the rest of the Nation and acknowledge that our country took an important step toward embracing the true telling of its history with the passage of the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act; and

WHEREAS, June 19, or Juneteenth, sometimes referred to as National Freedom Day, Emancipation Day, or Juneteenth Independence Day, became a day of celebration and the oldest known commemoration of the abolition of sanctioned slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the news of freedom disseminated gradually throughout the nation; two months after the official surrender of the Confederacy at Appomattox, on June 19, 1865, Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, and issued General Order No. 3 announcing freedom to some of the last enslaved people in America, the culmination of years of Black activism and abolitionism that had fought to end the cruel institution of slavery; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Virgin Islands encourages people to observe Juneteenth as an opportunity to reflect, rejoice, and plan for a brighter future as we continue to address racial injustices in our society today.

WHEREAS, this year Juneteenth National Independence Day will fall on Sunday, June 19, 2021; and

WHEREAS, according to the provisions of Title 1, Chapter 11, Section 171(a), Virgin Islands Code, the Governor is given the authority and discretion to declare a holiday falling on a Sunday to be celebrated on the following Monday; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Albert Bryan Jr., Governor of the Virgin Islands of the United States, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, and the Virgin Islands Code, Ann., Title 1, Chapter 11, Section 171(a), do hereby grant Administrative Leave to non-essential employees working in the Government of the Virgin Islands on Monday, June 20, 2022, in observance of Juneteenth National Independence Day.

The leave granted above shall not apply to essential employees and employees on a regular or rotating shift. Employees on annual or sick leave immediately preceding or immediately following the period administrative leave is granted will not receive the administrative leave. Future leave will not be substituted for employees who are considered essential and/or whose shift happens to fall on a day in which other employees are granted administrative leave.

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 16th day of June 2022, A.D.

Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor

Attest

Tregenza A. Roach, Esq.
Lieutenant Governor