



Government of the Virgin Islands
of the United States

Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs

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**ORDER
BY THE COMMISSIONER
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING
AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
DECLARING PRICE FREEZE AND RESTRICTED EXPORTATION
OF ITEMS RELATED TO
THE PREVENTION AND SPREAD OF COVID-19**

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) has made the assessment that COVID-19 can be characterized as a pandemic due to the alarming levels of spread and severity;

WHEREAS, there have been reports of the drastic increase in prices charged by retailers for the sale of products to prevent the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the WHO expects to see the number of cases, the number of deaths and the number of affected countries to climb even higher;

WHEREAS, the United States Virgin Islands is likely to identify a positive coronavirus patient in the near future;

WHEREAS, based upon this imminent threat, and in accordance with title 23, section 1005(d), of the Virgin Islands Code, codified in the Emergencies and Major Disasters Act (the "Act") the Governor of the Virgin Islands Albert Bryan, Jr. declared a State of Emergency on March 13, 2020 consistent with his executive authority under Section 11 of the Revised Organic Act; and

WHEREAS, the Governor, pursuant to the authority of section 1005(g)(10) of the Act has further determined that action is necessary to freeze and maintain the costs to the public of goods and services related to the prevention and spread of COVID-19 at a price level existing immediately prior to the proclamation of the state of emergency in order to protect the residents of the Territory from price-gouging and other unfair business;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Richard T. Evangelista, in accordance with the directive of the Governor, and by the authority and powers vested in me as the



"Serving Businesses and Assisting, Educating, & Protecting Consumers"

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Commissioner of the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs and pursuant to the provisions of V.I. Code Ann. Tit. 11, § 1015, and Title 11, Chapter 17, Section 1015-1, Virgin Islands Rules and Regulations, do hereby:

ORDER, that effective March 13, 2020, at 0900 hrs, prices are frozen at price levels existing immediately prior to the Governor's proclamation on all items, including general supplies and services related to the prevention and spread of COVID-19, in accordance with 11 VIRR Section 1015-1(d);

ORDER, that all such items are restricted from being exported or sold outside of the Territory until such time that a subsequent Order is issued lifting this protective embargo; and further

ORDER, that all merchants are forbidden to alter the ordinary delivery methods, terms, discounts, concessions, or methods of payment. The sale price shall not be higher than the fixed price. All merchants are also forbidden from refusing to accept Virgin Islands Government Vouchers during the Emergency period.

These measures are being instituted to protect the public's welfare during the emergency period and to prevent speculative practices related to those items including general supplies and services, which are essential during the response and recovery period of the COVID-19 outbreak.

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 this 13th day of March, A.D., 2020.

03/13/2020
DATE

Richard T. Evangelista
Richard T. Evangelista, Esq.
Commissioner
Department of Licensing and
Consumer Affairs

ATTEST:
H. Nathalie Hodge
H. Nathalie Hodge
Assistant Commissioner