



**Government of the Virgin Islands
of the United States**
Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs
VIRGIN ISLANDS POLICE DEPARTMENT
JOINT PRESS RELEASE



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DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
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DLCA PARTNERS WITH VIPD TO PROTECT CONSUMERS FROM FRAUD

Due to an increase in reports of scams that involve social media and websites like “Craig’s List” requests to obtain funds in exchange for automobiles, prizes and, or cash rewards; the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs(DLCA) has partnered with the Virgin Islands Police Department(VIPD) to prevent future occurrences and safeguard consumers. Consumers are asked to report all suspected scams or occurrences of fraud to the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs.

In addition to the wave of scams that involve social media where Western Union money transfers have been completed, there have also been newly reported cases regarding fraudulent online agreements. Within the past month, the Department has had three reports on the island of St. Croix regarding car sales on a popular buying and selling website called “Craig’s List.” The Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs Commissioner, Devin Carrington, stated “DLCA will be partnering with the Virgin Islands Police Department to keep a close eye on these cases where individuals paid money for items that they have not been able to receive. This is a result of fraud and the Department will ensure that Virgin Islands consumers are protected.” The DLCA Commissioner also encourages St. Croix residents to attend the AARP St. Croix Chapter, Fraud Watch Network Forum. **The Fraud Watch Network Forum will be hosted for 9:00AM to 12:00PM on September 29, 2016 at the Juan F. Luis Hospital and Medical Center’s VI Cardiac Center.**

Some offers that involve communication online may appear to be trustworthy, but may have been hacked or compromised. The best way to detect a scam is to find out more information about the individual or the company. If you suspect you are being targeted by a scam, make reports with the Consumer Protection Services in the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs. To make reports, call the St. Croix Office at 3407133522 or call the St. Thomas Office at 340-714-3522. If you have sent money to an individual or an alleged company, contact the Virgin Islands Police Department’s (VIPD) Economic Crime Bureau at 340-778-1001.

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“Serving Businesses and Assisting, Educating, & Protecting Consumers”

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